



The Greenway Connects it All

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





Connected with nature, our lives are better.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area is an iconic 1.5 million-acre landscape that connects Central Washington, the Cascade Mountains, and Puget Sound. The Greenway promotes a healthy and sustainable relationship between people and the land by holistically balancing built and natural environments. The Greenway landscape provides places for nature and wildlife, for culture and tradition, for outdoor recreation and education, for working forests and local agricultural production, while embracing vibrant urban areas. The Greenway is valued by a broad cross-section of society, working together as an effective coalition to conserve this place and its heritage for future generations.



Photo by FlowPhotoCo.



Way back in the summer of 2019, the designation of the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area still sparkled like sunshine on a mountain lake, motivating good work across the Greenway. We celebrated the 200,000th tree planted with Carter Subaru and Carter Volkswagen, and more than one million trees planted across King County. The Towns to Teanaway project added new trails from Ronald, and the City of Bellevue broke ground to fill a critical gap in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail. The Clean Water Ambassadors program empowered another cohort of young environmental leaders.

Then, suddenly, everything changed. The global pandemic brought the world to a standstill even as a national reckoning about racial and social justice moved people to their feet. Uncertainty about public health, the economy, and social change hung like a cloud.

And yet, even in the face of challenge and adversity, the constructive, collaborative spirit of the Greenway coalition shone through. New safety protocols enabled restoration work to continue along the Raging River and Issaquah Creek. With schools closed, the Greenway Trust's education program went online, sharing environmental education curricula via videos with at-home activities. As people started to venture outdoors again, the Greenway Trust joined with the Recreate Responsibly Coalition to promote safety on the trails. And Greenway Trust staff committed to an evaluation of how we can make our programming more inclusive, and how we help ensure that the benefits of being connected to nature are shared more equitably across our communities.

If there is one constant amid our rapidly changing world, it is that the Greenway landscape endures. It offers inspiration, respite, sustenance, and renewal that we all need more than ever as we navigate these challenging times.



Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director



PICTURED ABOVE
*Tree planting celebration
at Lake Sammamish State
Park in October 2019*

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE

Our Year In Review

LANDSCAPES



427 *Acres in restoration*



4,950 *Acres of land conserved*



44,207 *Native trees & shrubs planted*

CONNECTIONS



60+ *Miles of trail maintenance completed*



\$723K+ *Recreation improvements*

PEOPLE



2,840

*People volunteered
(22% youth)*



1,700*

*Students participated in
Greenway education programs*



23

*AmeriCorps
members sponsored*

*Due to school closures, we had to cancel education events for an estimated 2,000 students



Mountains to Sound
Greenway Boundary



County Boundaries



Public Lands



Conserved Private
Farms & Forests



Rural
Private Lands



Cities & Urban
Growth Areas

Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Greenway

In November 2019, as part of our strategic planning process, the Greenway Trust engaged a facilitator and coach to guide us on an examination of why diversity, equity, and inclusion matter for the Greenway Trust's mission, and to help us develop a positive action agenda. Our efforts became tangibly urgent as the entire country began to confront the realities of systemic racism, inequity, and injustice in the spring of 2020. We know we have hard work to do in order to become a trusted, collaborative, inclusive partner with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and to do our part toward building a more just and equitable society. We will share updates about the steps we are now taking to make our programming and organizational culture more welcoming and supportive of all who share an interest in the Greenway.

COVID-19

When stay-at-home orders were issued in response to the first COVID-19 outbreak, we hoped it would be a temporary disruption before life and work returned to normal. We soon learned that "normal" would never be the same again as social distancing requirements, limits on in-person gatherings, and school closures have stretched on. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), Zoom meetings, online learning, and recreating responsibly have become familiar parts of our daily routine. What hasn't changed, though, is our commitment to celebrating and stewarding the Mountains to Sound Greenway. We hope that 2021 marks the start of the end of the pandemic. Until then, stay safe, wear a mask, keep your distance, and recreate responsibly.





OUR WORK

National Heritage Area Designation

After the Mountains to Sound Greenway earned Congressional designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA) in March 2019, the Greenway Trust assumed an important new responsibility as the NHA Coordinating Entity.

Goals of the NHA designation include:

1. Amplifying the region's rich history and natural heritage through interpretive and educational programming.
2. Strengthening pride of place and opportunities for public engagement.
3. Supporting ecological restoration across multiple jurisdictions and watersheds.
4. Encouraging private and public partnerships and interagency coordination.
5. Promoting responsible tourism and sustainable economic opportunities.

Our first task for the new NHA is to develop a cooperative management plan that lays out the strategies for achieving these goals, including an interpretive plan. We are also committed to developing the management plan in consultation with tribes so that their heritage and abiding connection to this place is properly recognized and respected.

This year, we convened an NHA Advisory Committee that is guiding development of the cooperative management plan. Stay tuned in the coming year for updates on the planning process and opportunities for public input.

OUR WORK

Urban Communities

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Gap Groundbreaking

The City of Bellevue broke ground on a new section of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail in October 2019. This trail will connect cyclists and walkers from the I-90 floating bridge all the way to Issaquah. The new segment of the trail will include a bridge over Factoria Boulevard to separate bicyclists and walkers from automobiles, a tunnel under the existing I-405/eastbound I-90 ramps, increased capacity for the eastbound off-ramp to Factoria Boulevard, and a 12-foot pedestrian and bicycle path heading eastward.



The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail represents a key east-west connection in the world-class regional trail system we enjoy. The future vision is that a walker or bicyclist could travel on safe, enjoyable, nonmotorized trail connections between the Puget Sound urban areas and across the Cascades into Central Washington.

The idea of a trail through Eastgate began as Bellevue residents and planners worked to envision a transit-oriented, walkable neighborhood in a location originally designed for automobiles. The Greenway Trust secured the original National Scenic Byways grant in 2011, with additional funds from City of Bellevue, Puget Sound Regional Council, and construction funds from the Washington State Legislature.

Engaging Next Generation Leaders Through the Clean Water Ambassador Internship Program

In summer 2019, we partnered with King County Wastewater Treatment Division to hire 12 Clean Water Ambassador interns. In this program, interns gain valuable field experience, hone their leadership and communication skills, and make professional connections within the environmental community.

Through taking experiential field trips and interviewing professionals in environmental careers, interns learned about urban and natural water systems, including the key role of salmon and the ways human activity affects water quality. They also researched and created proposals on outreach and education opportunities within their own school and community.

Online Educational Series

The Greenway Education Program was among many environmental education programs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw 1,700 students in the fall, but then had to cancel programming for more than 2,000 students in the spring. We had to be extra nimble as we adapted to pandemic restrictions.

Greenway Trust educators made two series of videos paired with at-home activities for our two most popular curricula. "Forests and Fins" focuses on stream/forest ecology and the life cycle of salmon. The videos explore salmon habitat needs, threats, and how we can help protect them. "Next Generation Stewards" broadens students' understanding of the connections among the living and nonliving parts of a Pacific Northwest forest.



Planting Our 200,000th Tree with Carter Subaru and Carter Volkswagen

Our 11-year partnership with Carter Subaru and Carter Volkswagen celebrated a major milestone when we planted our 200,000th tree together as part of our annual tree planting kickoff in October 2019. Our tree planting efforts also made significant contributions toward King County's 1 Million Trees campaign.

OUR WORK

Snoqualmie River Valley

Stossel Creek Climate Resiliency Planting

Reforestation efforts are underway along Stossel Creek, where the Greenway Trust teamed up with Seattle City Light (SCL), Seattle Public Utilities, and Northwest Natural Resource Group to implement a forest restoration project that will test methods for establishing forests that are more resilient to climate change. Key support for this project comes from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund via the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Carter Subaru.

Stossel Creek, located northeast of Carnation, is an important stream for steelhead, a threatened species in the Tolt River watershed. The project encompasses a 154-acre parcel of land that was acquired by City of Seattle in 2015 through SCL's Endangered Species Act Early Action Plan.

The land was cleared by a private timber company in 2012, and SCL reached out to the Greenway Trust to help design a forest restoration plan using seeds obtained from southern Oregon and northern California (where conditions are similar to those projected for western WA later this century) in addition to the same species from our local seed sources. Many of our native trees, like Douglas fir, have huge ranges (British Columbia to Mexico), and just like people, their genetics adapt across generations to their local climate conditions. For this project, we planted more than 14,000 trees!





Partnering with the Refuge Outdoor Festival

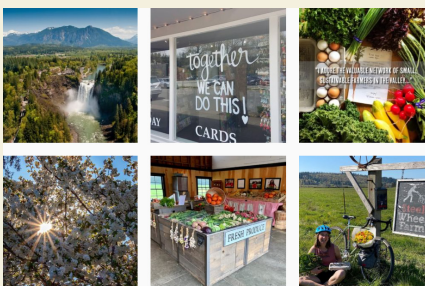
The second-annual Refuge Outdoor Festival was on September 27-29, 2019 at King County's Tolt MacDonald Park. The festival was put on by Golden Bricks Events, a Seattle-based organization that has a "strong record of developing events and festivals that encompass outdoor recreation, community, and diversity."

The two-day event was a celebration and camping experience centered around People of Color, outdoor recreation and experiences, and community building. Throughout the weekend, organizations and participants celebrated diversity of all forms, in nature and life.

The Greenway Trust participated as a community partner. Two educators from our staff spent the weekend at the event, diving into community building through environmental education. Highlights included guiding participants in a native plant and nature walk, as well as planting native trees along the Tolt and Snoqualmie River riparian buffers — areas culturally significant to Coast Salish peoples. The rain only added to the magic of the weekend, and the tea hut helped everyone stay cozy throughout the event. [Learn more at refugeoutdoorfestival.com](http://refugeoutdoorfestival.com).

Savor Snoqualmie Valley Launches Instagram

In the fall of 2019, we started an Instagram for Savor Snoqualmie Valley (@savor.snoqualmievalley) as a new way to share and celebrate all that makes the Snoqualmie Valley so special. We've seen great success on the platform, with nearly 700 followers by June 2020.



OUR WORK

Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley

Middle Fork Campaign Progress

The Greenway Trust continues to lead a coalition of partner organizations working toward a sustainable balance between recreation and healthy ecological conditions in the beautiful Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. Since 2016, the Middle Fork campaign has raised almost \$9 million and has nearly completed the critical first phase of the campaign: intentional development of infrastructure (trails, trailheads, sanitation, signage, etc.) to ensure safe, ecologically sustainable recreation along the newly paved 10 miles of the Middle Fork Road. It has been thrilling to see the public and private sectors coming together to invest in the future of this priceless community asset.

Celebrating National Public Lands Day 2019

On National Public Lands Day, more than 200 people joined the Greenway Trust and our partners in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley to celebrate all of the stewardship that has happened throughout the year. Through 10 different trail and restoration projects, volunteers accomplished the following:

finished construction of 80 steps on the new Garfield Ledges Trail; moved 10 cubic yards of gravel to maintain the Middle Fork Campground nature trail; removed 20 lbs of trash and decommissioned two fire rings from popular trailheads; built 11 picnic tables at Camp Brown Day Use Area; maintained 7.5 miles of trail along the CCC, Middle Fork, Pratt River and new Oxbow Loop Trails; planted more than 50 native plants at the Granite Creek Trailhead; moved more than 20 yards of mulch into the Middle Fork Natural Area; and removed gear from a former trail crew camp at Mailbox Peak.

Wow! All of this great work was celebrated at the end of the day at an after-party put on by REI Co-op, complete with Smokey Bear and Sammy the Sounder, swag, food, drinks, raffles, and education on the agencies and nonprofits that work in the Valley.





Garfield Ledges Trail Completed

Thanks to a partnership between the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and the USDA Forest Service Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (USFS), there's a new trail for hikers to enjoy in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley: Garfield Ledges. This trail is easily accessible by way of the newly paved Middle Fork road and reaches a scenic viewpoint in just over a mile, providing a big payoff with modest effort.

The time and effort that went into planning and building the trail, however, were quite extensive. The concept was first proposed by members of the Alpine Lakes Protection Society and Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition (MidFORC) in 2004. In 2012, the



Lumber haul photo credit: Christina Hickman

Greenway Trust adopted the project in collaboration with the USFS, recognizing the value of this recreational opportunity for the public. As plans for the Middle Fork Road came to fruition, the Greenway Trust advocated for constructing a trailhead, picnic area, and trail to the viewpoint, then raised the necessary project funds from private donors and the National Forest Foundation. Greenway staff and field crews worked in partnership with USFS staff, supported by contractors and dozens of volunteers, to build the trail over two years. Garfield Ledges is the first trail in the Greenway to be funded almost entirely by private philanthropy!



OUR WORK

Upper Yakima Basin

Photo by Angela Steele

Teanaway Community Forest Updates

Greenway Trust staff continue to facilitate the Teanaway Community Forest's (TCF) 'Goal 5' group (G5), a subcommittee that provides opportunities for community members to play active roles in the forest's management and upkeep. With events and volunteer opportunities limited by COVID-19, G5 turned their attention to branding and marketing, completing a new logo design, creating a merchandise lineup to drive fundraising, and updating Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and interpretive signage within the forest's boundaries. G5 also launched a 'Nature at Home' webinar series, published a birding brochure, and executed a forest-wide photo contest garnering more than 50 submissions. In-person events remain on hold, but virtual outreach has never been more active!

Teanaway Community Forest Cultural Resources Assessments

The Greenway Trust has long played an active role in planning for management of, and recreation in, the TCF. In 2019-2020, we deepened that involvement by partnering with DNR to complete cultural resource assessments on the proposed site of several priority recreation projects:

- Relocating the 29 Pines Campground
- Building trails at Dickey Creek and Indian Creek
- Creating a new trailhead at the West Fork Teanaway River
- Creating a new trail from that trailhead to the Cle Elum Ridge

The cultural resource survey process identifies and maps artifacts and sites of cultural, historical, and tribal significance, ensuring such areas are not disturbed by new construction. The Greenway Trust contracted with Perteet to conduct archaeological assessments of the sites, document new findings with appropriate state departments, and provide comprehensive recommendations for how to proceed with the projects. All of this means the TCF partners will soon be able to break ground on much-needed recreational amenities, and the Greenway Trust has gained a new relationship with Perteet (who has gone on to work with us in Issaquah!)

Towns to Teanaway Trail Updates

The Towns to Teanaway Implementation Group successfully raised \$27k in grants and donations to complete the design and construction for Paul's Trail, 3.15 miles of multi-use, nonmotorized trail linking the eastern and western ends of the Towns to Teanaway network, named for local conservation leader Paul Schmitt.

Photo (right): Paul Schmitt (KVH Family Medicine, Cle Elum) on the trail named after him.



A Ditch by Any Other Name in Thorp

With help from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Thorp Town Ditch commission, Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, and the local fire station, eight National Civilian Community Corps and four Washington Service Corps members spent two days in early March (before our Stay at Home orders were in place) working hard to improve the Thorp Town Ditch.

While Kittitas Fire District #1 burned invasive Reed Canary Grass from the site, the crew toured the ditch to learn more about how water supply affects rural Washington communities.

Once the ground cooled, Corps members returned 100 cubic feet of dredged soil to the reinforced embankment using wheelbarrows and hand tools. With the dirt in place, the crew split into groups to harvest live cuttings from riparian tree species within ¼ mile of the site. 775 cuttings were taken from cottonwood, red osier dogwood, coyote willow, and birch. These cuttings, or 'live stakes,' were then used to pin 250 square feet of weed-exclusion tarp into place over the bank.

By improving the stability of the ditch itself, Greenway AmeriCorps members took the first step in a much broader project to improve water supply and quality along the Thorp reach of the Yakima River.

BEFORE



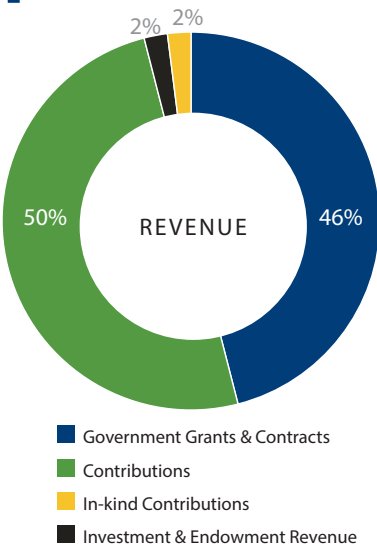
AFTER



Financial Report

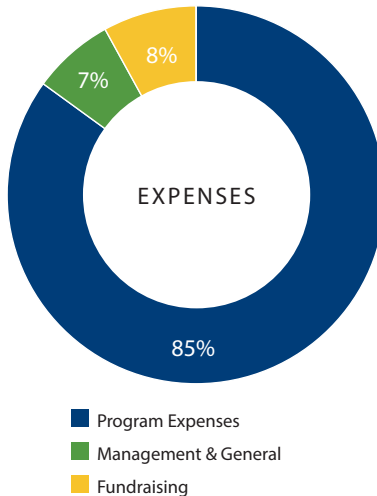
REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Government Grants & Contracts | \$1,191,085 |
| Contributions | \$1,291,576 |
| In-kind Contributions | \$43,015 |
| Net Investment & Other Income | \$58,044 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$2,583,720 |



EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Program Expenses | \$2,455,582 |
| Management & General | \$214,584 |
| Fundraising | \$220,564 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$2,890,730 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR | \$3,606,604 |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | \$3,299,594 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS* | -\$307,010 |

*Restricted Middle Fork, project restricted, and pledged in-kind



Photo credit: Ray Lapine

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JUNE 2020

“We support the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust because of its vital work bringing people, organizations, and communities together to conserve the landscape and nurture connections to nature. It’s a strong coalition which effectively addresses regional challenges to benefit all of us today and in the future.”

- Lisa & John Merrill, Merrill Images

DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

Thank You, Donors

The Greenway Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, and foundations that generously support our work across the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE CAMPAIGN

The Middle Fork Snoqualmie campaign seeks to chart a sustainable future for the Middle Fork Valley through enhanced recreational infrastructure, cooperative management, and volunteer stewardship. Donors have broken new ground in this effort by bringing philanthropy to bolster dwindling public funds. With their help, the Greenway Trust and agency partners are creating the facilities needed to accommodate rising usage of this incredible wilderness just minutes from the busy Puget Sound metro.

\$1,000,000+

REI Co-op

\$500,000 - \$999,000

The Boeing Company

\$100,000 - \$499,999

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Maggie Walker

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The Norcliffe Foundation

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Wyncote Foundation Northwest

\$20,000 - \$99,999

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Thomsen Family

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\$2,500 - 9,999

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Brogan Thomsen
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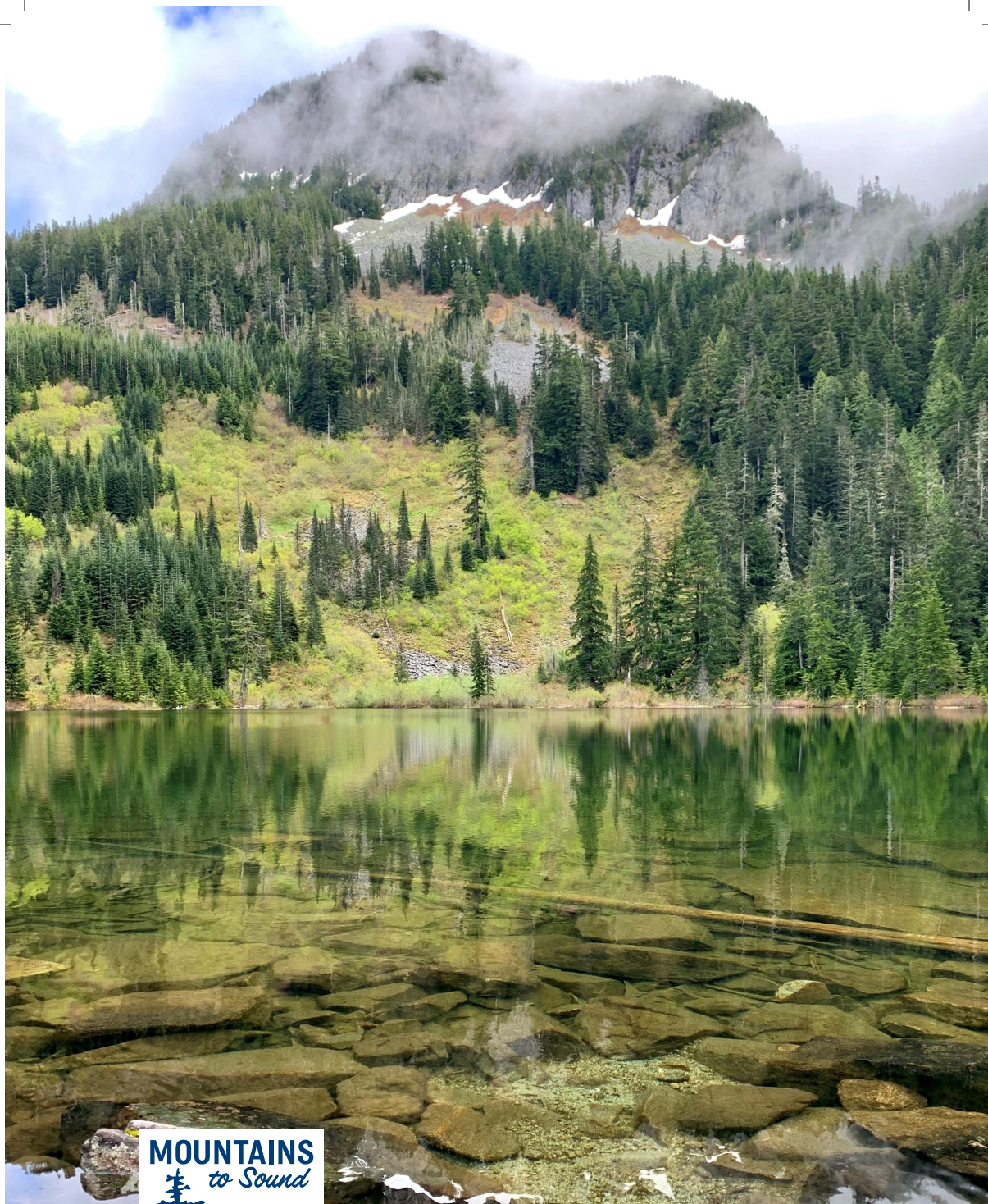
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