



FACT SHEET

THE CONSERVATION LAND BANK AND HABITAT RESTORATION

1. The Land Bank Restores Native Habitats on its Preserves to Improve Water Quality, Reduce Wildfire Risk, Benefit Native Plants and Wildlife, and Increase Carbon Storage.

Habitat restoration is an important part of caring for Land Bank preserves. Efforts are focused where the need is greatest. For example:

- Planting native shrubs and trees at Cascade Creek on the Coho Preserve helps keep the water cool and clean for spawning salmon, while providing food and habitat for birds and other wildlife.
- Restoring rare Garry oak savannah on Cady Mountain (San Juan) and Turtleback Mountain (Orcas) achieves many ends. Removing dense vegetation reduces the risk of catastrophic fire. Restoration benefits the great diversity of creatures that depend on native oaks for nesting and foraging. Plus it's a stunning habitat for visitors to enjoy, with open vistas, abundant songbirds, and wildflowers.
- Controlling noxious weeds and replacing them with beneficial native plants is a priority on all Land Bank Preserves. It's also part of being a good neighbor and limiting the spread of these unwelcome, aggressive, and sometimes toxic plants.

2. The Land Bank has been Very Successful in Securing Outside Funding for Habitat Restoration Projects.

To make the most of Land Bank dollars, the program relies on outside funding for habitat restoration. A few recent examples include:

- \$200,000 for restoring rare Garry oak savannah at Turtleback Mountain and forestlands at Mount Grant and Preserves (*funding from Washington State Department of Natural Resources and San Juan Islands Conservation District*).

- \$150,000 for replacing culverts on Turtleback Mountain Preserve, improving water quality and allowing continued access for restoration projects (SJPT *Stewardship Fund*).
- \$55,000 for creating habitat for the extremely rare island marble butterfly at preserves on Lopez and San Juan Islands (*funding through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and San Juan Islands Conservation District*).

3. The Land Bank supports local contractors and youth training programs in implementing habitat restoration.

Many of these projects would not be possible without the skills of local workers. Tree care professionals, equipment operators, and environmental consultants provide expertise and labor. Youth and young adults from the Islands Conservation Corps and the Youth Conservation Corps (both programs administered by the San Juan Islands Conservation District) receive on the job training while getting a ton of restoration work done.

4. The Salish Seeds Project supplies plants and seeds to habitat restoration projects throughout the islands.

A joint program of the Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust, the Salish Seeds Project nursery produces plants and seeds of local, native species that are commercially unavailable in the islands. As a public service, the Land Bank offers land managers and the general public alike the opportunity to purchase them at cost for habitat restoration and gardening. Land Bank staff share their expertise in native plant restoration and landscaping through a variety of talks, workshops, tours, and online materials.

Where Can I Learn More about Land Bank Habitat Restoration?

Individual Preserve Stewards are a great resource for habitat restoration.

Lopez Preserve Steward, Amanda Wedow – amandaw@sjclandbank.org

Orcas Preserve Steward, Peter Guillozet – peterg@sjclandbank.org

San Juan Preserve Steward, Doug McCutchen – doug@sjclandbank.org

Or go to: www.sjclandbank.org