
STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH REPORT

JANUARY 2026

Overview

Holiday vacations and weather conditions slowed field work during the past month but across the preserves, staff addressed weather-related impacts including downed trees and erosion issues. Progress was made on annual monitoring, routine maintenance, workplans, and preparations for upcoming projects in the new year.

Outreach

Staff: Tanja Williamson, Margo Thorp

Before taking a break over the holidays, Tanja attended a webinar centered around social media content, completed her ninth “End of Year Newsletter” and helped coordinate her tenth Annual Retreat. Post vacation activities include collaborating with staff and partner organizations to populate the 2026 outreach calendar and circling back to a 2025 project: moving the Land Bank’s email newsletter from Mailchimp to the County’s GovDelivery software.

Annual agricultural conservation easement site visits were completed for the year.

Salish Seeds Nursery

Staff: Eliza Habegger, Margo Thorp

Nursery operations are limited during the winter months. Staff have responded to a few seed purchase requests and have been taking plant orders for fall 2026. Two end-of-year private donations totaling \$10,000 will allow for the purchase of a greenhouse, a long-anticipated addition to the nursery.

District 1

Staff: Doug McCutchen, Charlie Behnke, Jacob Wagner, Shauna Barrows

Holidays, stormy weather, and short days inform the seasonal rhythm of stewardship work (Photos 2 and 3). Staff have been busy refining work plans for the year as well as cleaning and organizing.

Beaverton Marsh: Overmarsh Farm Commons has slowed down for the winter. Garden beds are mulched and cover cropped, sheep have been moved off the pastures, and the water system has been winterized. Planning is underway for the next phases of farm improvements including continuing to replace the perimeter fence. The Beaverton Marsh Trail project is moving forward with outstanding questions on trail standards and permit requirements nearly resolved. We expect a 30% design package by the end of January and plan for our first public meeting in late February. There will also be a February project walkthrough for interested Land Bank staff and commissioners, and county administration personnel. Look for that timing and invitation by the end of January. It will be wet and muddy. But fun (Photo 4).

Cady Mountain: Neighbors reported overnight camping with vehicles matching those suspected of wide-spread mail theft. Star Septic also reporting dumping of garbage in portable restrooms. Staff have

been monitoring the site more closely and have requested additional support from SJC Sheriff. The heavy rain event in early December washed out a section of Shooting Star Road. Neighbors were able to temporarily patch the effected section. There is disagreement amongst easement holders on acceptable level of maintenance and repair. We have suggested seeking an outside assessment by one or more local contractors.

False Bay Creek: The western pasture is ponding with more water flowing through following the road widening and culvert modifications implemented last summer. Waterfowl have abundant open water this winter.

Frazer Homestead: A small herd of cattle has been grazing following the water system improvements earlier in the fall.

King Sisters: The Conservation District is working on an Individual Stewardship Plan (Farm Plan) to inform current and future farm activities. Rob Waldron continues to graze a small mixed herd of cattle and sheep.

Limekiln: Staff have responded to downed trees and report of a dead deer in the trail. Annual monitoring was completed.

Mount Grant: We have received a request for potential name change from Josiah Feld-French and [PKOLS: Protection of Knowledge of Land & Sea](#). A presentation at the January LBC meeting should follow. Staff have responded to downed trees. Public works will be selectively mowing roadsides and sweeping.

Westside: Consistent heavy rains have hampered planting efforts in oak restoration areas. Shauna has scheduled a volunteer effort for MLK Day of Service, weather willing. Staff responded to garbage dumping and sign vandalization (Photo 5).

District 2

Staff: Peter Guillozet, Tyler Goodman

Tyler completed annual monitoring at all District 2 preserves, which also included work to remove small, isolated patches of holly, ivy and spurge laurel.

Coffelt Farm: Boundary lines were surveyed on the NE side of the property in advance of perimeter fence installation and repairs. Lum Farm sold Christmas trees this year in addition to the usual array of meats, dairy, and other farm products.

Coho: In support of Erin's efforts to advance the grant-funded acquisition along the east side of Cascade Creek, Peter has initiated a boundary survey contract with Holman Land Surveying. The survey will define approximately 6.07 acres along the western, riparian portions of two tax lots, plus approximately one acre of adjacent tidelands.

Crescent Beach: Staff have begun preparations to plant over 7,000 trees and shrubs in thinned areas starting January 27th. This effort will include a volunteer planting event on January 31st.

Dolphin Bay property: Staff will meet on site on January 15th as a precursor to preparation of the Stewardship and Management Plan. Caldera Archaeology recently completed a cultural resources

survey, with findings indicating that riparian planting and beach access, trail and parking improvements will not impact any cultural resources. Peter worked with a local contractor to remove the old speedboat and other debris. OPALCO is reviewing existing electrical infrastructure with an eye towards moving the existing transformer to the roadside.

Diamond Hill: Staff sought assistance from Skyline Tree Care to remove a tree hanging over one of the sheds at 'Camp Killebrew'.

North Shore: Runoff during heavy rains has been manageable thus far this winter thanks, in part, to recent drainage improvements along the trails.

Turtleback Mountain: With assistance from Blackcap Restoration, staff planted approximately 2,500 plants on the south side of Turtleback in previous burn pile footprints. Chihuahua Team assisted with chipping piles of thinned limbs and small diameter trees along the North Turtleback trail. We plan to continue this work next month to establish a shaded fuel break along the entire Turtleback road network. We are preparing to plant roughly 150 Garry oaks in the field adjacent to the South Entrance parking lot. A surveyor completed a boundary survey along the northern boundary to address encroachment in that area.

District 3

Staff: Amanda Wedow

Amanda took a break for the holidays and has limited updates to report. Preserve annual monitoring was completed. In the field, she is doing basic preserve maintenance such as filling potholes and clearing trails and planting. Amanda met with SJC Noxious Weeds staff to remove Holly at Richardson and Hummel preserves. In the office, Amanda is preparing the annual Lopez workplan.



Photo 1. SJCLB Commission Annual Retreat, December 2025.

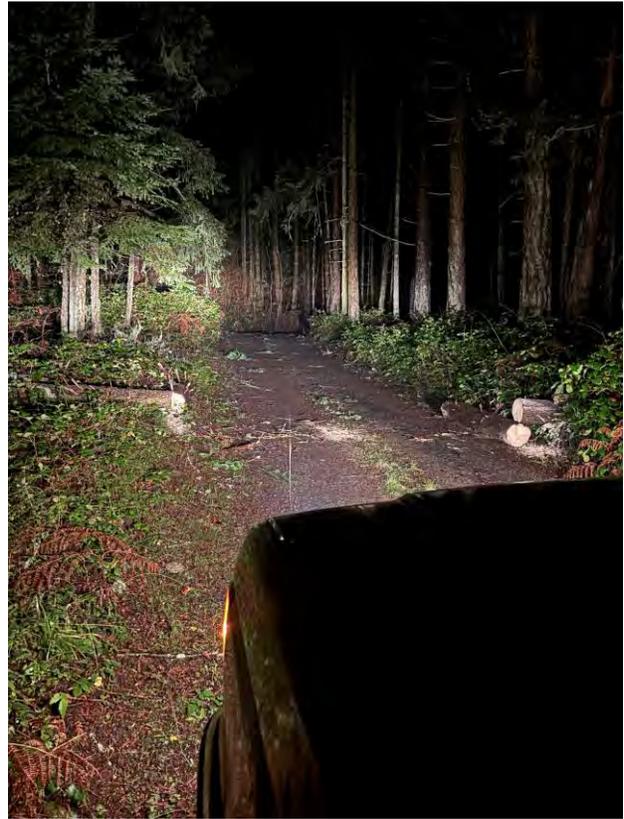
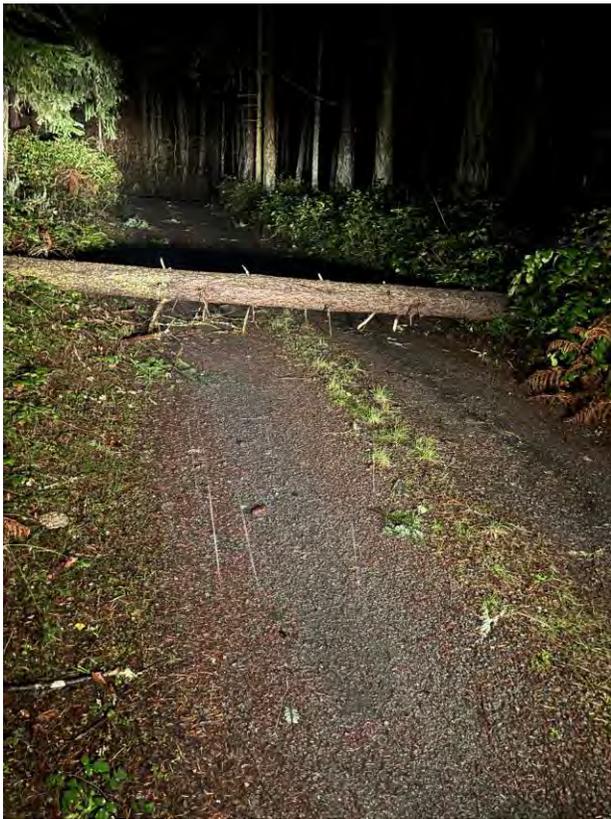


Photo 2. Short days and spicy weather has resulted in minor erosion issues on private roads and many downed trees.

Photo 3. After clearing downed tree.



Photo 4. Blackcap Restoration was enlisted to help brush proposed new trail routes at Beaverton Marsh Preserve.
Photo 5. Inspirational vandalism from the Westside Preserve.



Photos 6 and 7. Removal of derelict boat and other debris from Dolphin Bay Road property on Orcas.

