



RALLY IN SALT LAKE CITY

This month the Conservancy was present at the National Land Conservation Rally in Salt Lake City. Much of the cost was funded by a generous grant by the Land Trust Alliance. The conference was an opportunity to “rub elbows” with hundreds of like-minded land trust members and to pick up lots of instruction on how to do better. Sessions on Planned Giving, Land Use Planning, Engaging New Partnerships, Land Management, and Strategic Planning were attended. Notice the emphasis on “planning”. Our board will be having a retreat at the beginning of next month where we can develop an organizational Strategic Plan, as well as work on our mission statement, and generate goals and action plans to reach them. For this retreat we have engaged a professional consultant to lead us in some serious work; stay tuned for the results.

One of the more interesting presentations at the Rally was a session on whether we should protect our conservation land from people, or for people. This is a big question that we face in much of our land management decisions. As a conservation organization, the best job we can do in stewardship seems to maintain our land 100% protected from human effects with no people access. Indeed, when the session audience was asked whether no public access was good land management some hands went up. On the other hand, most in the room agreed that including the public was critical in both supporting their community and obtaining the resources to do their mission. One side claimed number one priority for them was to “protect and defend special places, or Heritage sites”, while others felt that “connecting land with people, and enhancing the community” was their prime mission. The best answer for us appears to be somewhere in the middle. We realize that to encourage public use of our natural lands comes with a serious responsibility for proper stewardship. We also feel that the value of our mission must include recreational opportunities for public enjoyment and health, educational resources, and just wonderful scenery. Our board retreat will include these topics.

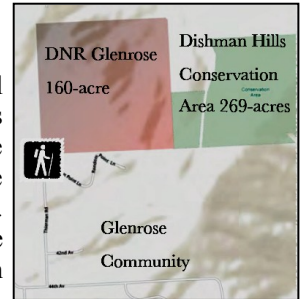
Another eye-opening session was on Planned Giving. On the Conservancy’s plate of things we need to do is “capacity building”, and planned giving is another very important tool to do that. Planned giving can be legacy gifts, estate tools, charity trust, and programmed giving. It involves taxes, financial and investment strategies, and family intentions; in short it is fairly complicated. The session included a legal specialist who showed us many ways

*The study of Nature is intercourse with the highest mind,
You should never trifle with Nature— Louis Agassiz*

a win-win-win program could be constructed. It was obvious that we will have to lean on local legal talent to do the program right. It was pointed out that land conservancies are well suited for legacy gifts with our commitment to save something important for the community, for the future. It is our responsibility to assure the prospective gifter of our sustainability, credibility, and permanence, as well as being perfectly clear how any gifts will be incorporated into our mission. Lots of work to do here!

GLENROSE 160

With our latest conservation land deal of 269 acres last spring, our attention turns to 160 acres next to the Glenrose community owned by Washington State Department of Natural Resource (DNR). This Trust land was granted to the state upon statehood to support public education and prisons (interesting combination!).



Trust lands are to be managed for income, swapped for other lands, or surplused. The Glenrose 160 rest on the State’s surplus list for the last 10 years as a low priority candidate for selling. The land is undeveloped, has wonderful nature settings, and has ridge top views to the west. Maybe even more important it connects to our spring purchase and provides public trail access from the end of Theirman Ln. The State has a program to compensate the DNR for transferring this land to the community if we can demonstrate it’s importance as a public asset. We have initiated a campaign to work with the Glenrose neighborhood association and County Parks to convince Olympia of the importance of the Glenrose 160. Be alert for ways you can help.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be on November 20th, 7 PM. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our September donors that have consented to be listed: Loretta Byrd, Nancy Cashon, Victoria Egesdal, Lois Elia, William Fix, Lila Girvin, Julia Goltz, Cynthia Langlois, Bettie Maron, Robert McTigue, Marilyn Miller, Kathryn Quinn, Edward Reynolds, Norma Rosenberger, Donna Stambaugh, Richard Taylor, Elizabeth Treacy, and one anonymous donor. Thank you for your support.

YES, I want to help protect our natural areas in the Spokane Region

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

\$ 15* \$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100 Other _____ * annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: _____

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