

October 6, 2011

Phil Rockefeller **Copies sent to all SRFB members**

The Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917



Dear Phil,

As part of a national accreditation process, Whatcom Land Trust (WLT) would like to invite you to comment on our work to conserve Whatcom County's special places.

Work is underway to complete WLT's accreditation application for the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC), an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). The Commission awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands.

The opportunity to seek accreditation has only been available to land trusts for the past four years. The Commission conducts an extensive review of the applicant's policies and programs. A dues-paying member of LTA since 1993, WLT formally adopted the LTA's standards and practices in 1999. WLT is seeking accreditation status to further strengthen the organization internally and within the conservation community.

A public comment period is now open on WLT's application and that's where you come in. The Commission invites public input and accepts *written and faxed* comments on pending applications. Your thoughts and observations on how WLT complies with LTAC's national quality standards addressing ethical and technical operations are welcome.

To prepare comments, please review the following websites for information on the standards and indicator practices LTAC is seeking comment on:

- *Standards and Practices* - <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/sp/lt-standards-practices07.pdf>
- *Indicator Practices* – <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>
- Scroll the list to identify stands out to you per your relevant experience with the WLT
- Comments should be faxed to 518-587-3183 or mailed directly to:
Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments
112 Spring Street, Suite 204
Saratoga Springs, NY 112886

Your comments on WLT's application will be most useful by Dec. 30, 2011. We appreciate your time and consideration of our accreditation effort and your help in preserving what makes Whatcom County so unique.

Warm regards,

Mary Dumas

Mary Dumas

President, Board of Directors





**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

November 16, 2011

Ms. Kaleen Cottingham, Director
Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office
The Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

✓ Mr. Donald "Bud" Hover, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2011

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Dear Director Cottingham and Chair Hover:

In response to tightening Federal budgets and the need to strategically deploy limited funds on habitat protection and restoration programs, NOAA's Fisheries Service must do its part to ensure that all our programs are efficient, accountable, and effectively focused on our core mission and priorities. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) program has a great track record of improved efficiency, accountability and focus over the past 10 years. We would like to continue that success and are commencing reviews of the PCSRF grantees. The purpose of the reviews are to assess PCSRF projects conducted by the states and tribes over the past ten years and determine mechanisms to improve focus on essential projects necessary for the recovery and conservation of anadromous Pacific salmonids, especially those populations listed under the Endangered Species Act.

We plan to meet individually with each Grantee over the next few months. The two main components of the review will include: 1) review of the PCSRF project selection priorities and processes and the types of projects that have been funded, and 2) a discussion of ideas for improving the PCSRF program's focus. Specifically, we will want to discuss how your programs can be geographically targeted to assist systematic and strategic initiatives within the range of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead to ensure the conservation of stronghold areas, and maximize survival improvements for at-risk populations. We would include the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the discussion as well.

My staff will be in contact with you to arrange the date and logistics for our meeting with you and your staff. Please contact Barry Thom at 503-231-6266, if you have any questions on the review process.

Sincerely,

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

cc: Phil Anderson, Director - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sara LaBorde, Special Assistant to the Director - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Megan Duffy, Executive Director - Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

