

A photograph of a rural farm scene. In the foreground, there is a lush green field. In the middle ground, a large red barn with a dark roof and a smaller white building are visible. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.

Cascade Land Conservancy

**Presentation to
Yakima Basin Aquatic Science
and Management Conference**

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Jill Arango

Kittitas County Conservation Director

Mission Statement

The Cascade Land Conservancy envisions a region that combines spectacular landscapes, a vibrant economy and great places to live. We will act with immediacy to protect and steward our region's most precious resource – the land.

We will lead a movement to connect conservation to the fabric of our community and thereby change conservation as we know it.

Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC)

- Founded in 1989
- Regional Land Trust
 - King, Kittitas, Mason, Pierce and Snohomish
 - Conservation Directors
 - Community Trustees
 - 40+ conservation staff
- 140,000 acres conserved





What CLC Does

- Variety of land protection tools to maximize conservation and economic value
- Entrepreneurial and collaborative approach to land conservation
- Work with voluntary landowners to realize their goals for their land
- Provide fee for service – contracts
 - Mitigation banking
 - Transfer/Purchase of Development Rights
 - Green Cities program
 - Conservation development

Goals for Kittitas County

- Conserve working lands
- Maintain and improve access to public lands
- Create livable communities





Conservation Toolkit

- CLC works with landowners to:
 - Accept donated land
 - Accept donated conservation easements
 - Purchase land
 - Purchase conservation easements
 - Develop with conservation outcomes
 - Find conservation buyers
 - Steward and manage their lands
 - Create estate plans



Fee for Service Toolkit

- Mitigation banking
- TDR Marketplaces
- Conservation Development
- Cascade Agenda Cities
- Stewardship/Monitoring
- Land management planning

Mitigation Banking

- enable developers whose projects result in impacts to wetlands to buy "credits" in an approved wetland mitigation bank instead of mitigating for impacts on-site
- a private market based approach for conservation and restoration of critical habitat
- CLC holds a conservation easement on 225 acres of wetlands in Snohomish County, a milestone in the growing program of mitigation banking in Washington State
- *Snohomish Habitat Bank is the first private wetland mitigation bank to be approved in Washington State.*
- river floodplain habitat will be restored to historic wetland conditions, providing habitat for endangered salmon and waterfowl

TDR Marketplaces

- a market-based mechanism that promotes responsible growth,
- conserving prime agricultural land and open space
- TDR programs redirect growth -- not limit development
- voluntary transactions
- development rights are transferred from privately owned land (sending sites) to areas that can accommodate additional growth (receiving sites)
 - Landowners in sending areas receive compensation for giving up their right to develop
 - Developers in receiving areas pay for the right to a bonus in the receiving area, such as additional height or density than would otherwise be allowed
 - When development rights are removed from a parcel, a conservation easement is placed on the sending site

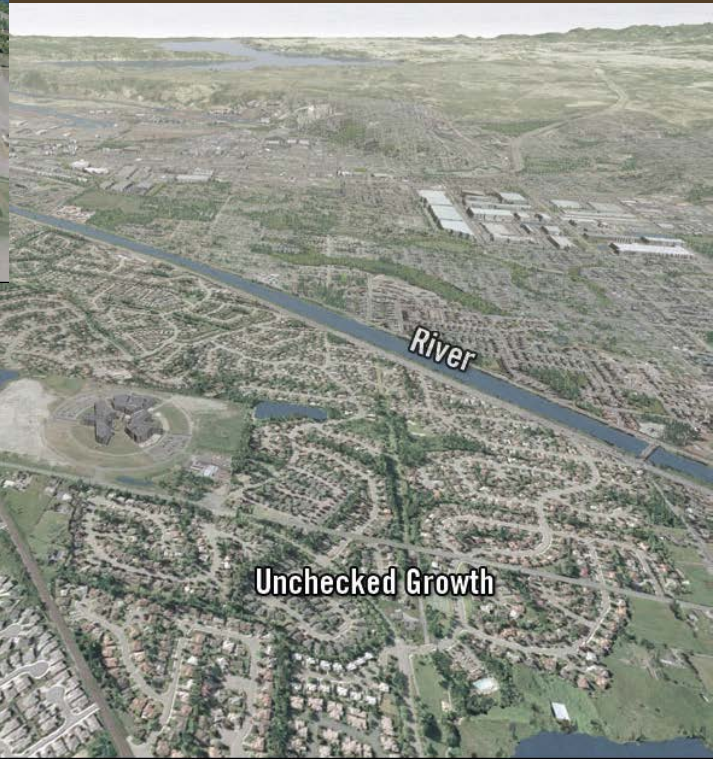
Why Attempt a TDR Program?

- **Equity and compensation.**
 - In contrast to zoning restrictions, TDR compensates landowners who give up their right to develop. TDR is voluntary and fair.
- **Private funding.**
 - TDR uses the market to generate private funding for land conservation, helping to augment and leverage available public funds and programs.
- **Permanence.**
 - While zoning regulations can change over time, TDR protects property from development in perpetuity and allows resource uses to continue.
- **Cost effectiveness.**
 - By focusing development in areas that already have infrastructure capacity, TDR can reduce a region's infrastructure costs and more efficiently accommodate growth.

TDR Marketplaces

- **Population is expected to double** in the Central Cascades region of Washington State in the next 100 years
- Cities and counties are looking beyond zoning for new tools to direct this growth into appropriate areas while protecting natural areas and respecting property rights
- **Transfer of Development Rights – TDR** – is a key strategy for an economically strong and environmentally sound future for our region

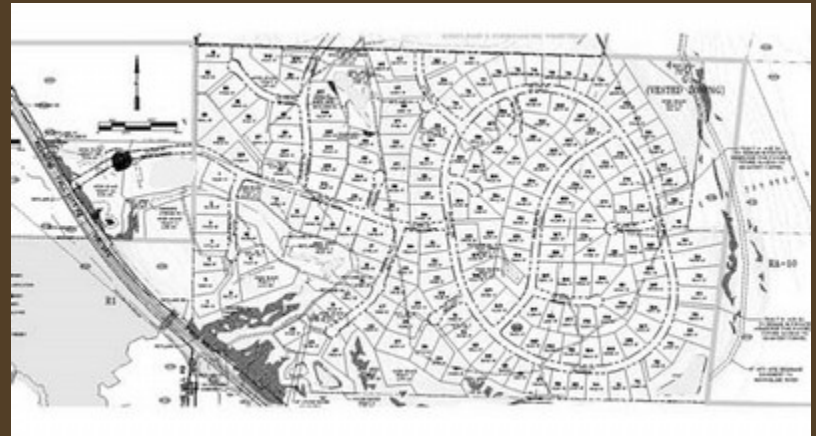
With and Without TDR



Conservation Development

- importance of protecting natural areas for both local communities and wildlife habitat by making conservation a significant part of residential development
- can ensure a win-win solution that enhances both ecological and social values by protecting land that otherwise may have been completely developed
- CLC's involvement help ensures development is held to high environmental standards, and that revenues from the project are set aside to support further open space conservation initiatives

Before Conservation Development:



After Conservation Development:

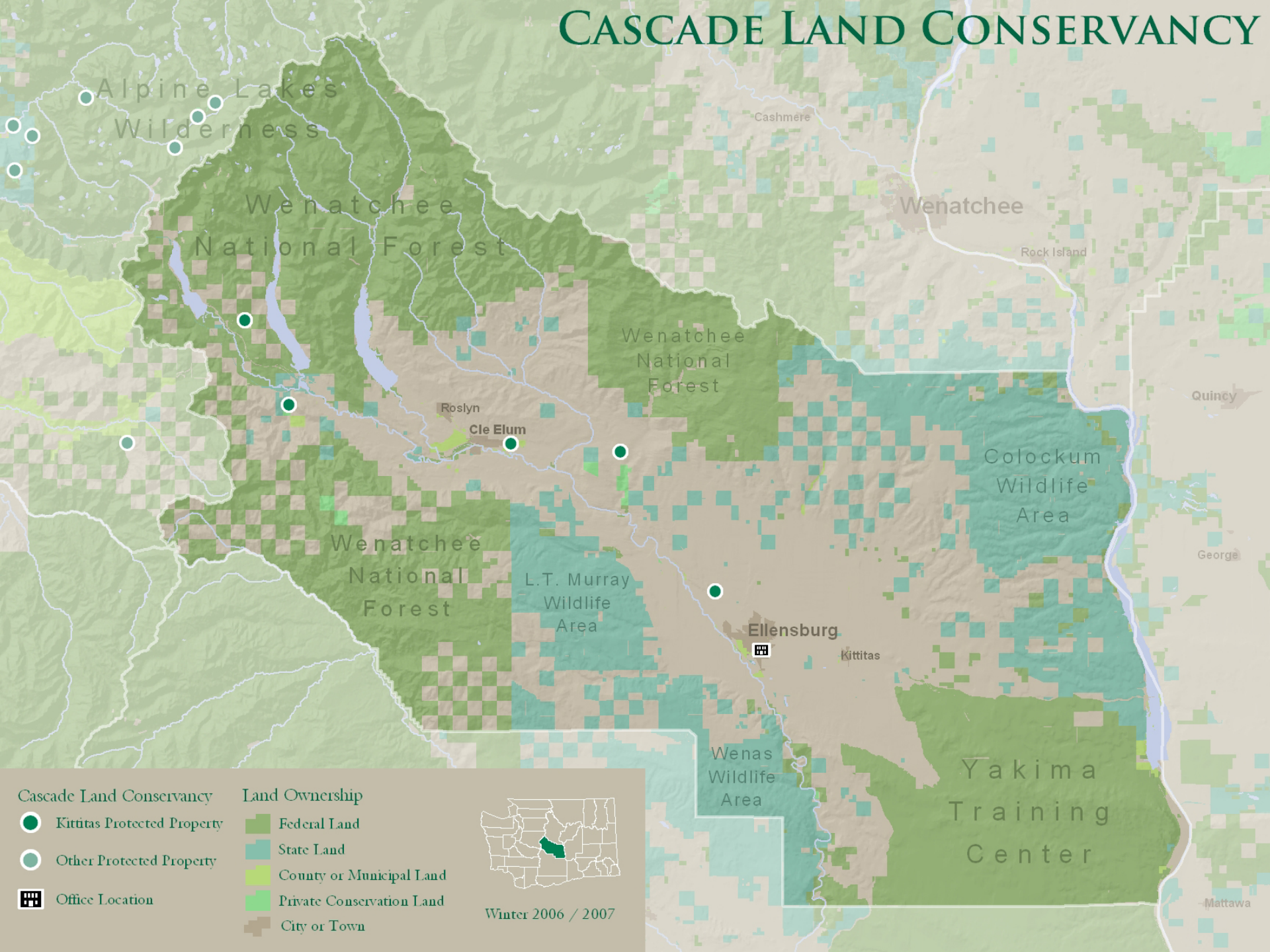




Partnership Toolkit

- Huge tent:
 - WDFW to Quadrant Homes
 - WSDOT to Mountains to Sound Greenway
 - TPL to Kittitas County
 - Enterprise Community Partners to KEEN
 - CWU to PSE
 - Private landowners to corporations

CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY



Completed Conservation Projects in Kittitas County

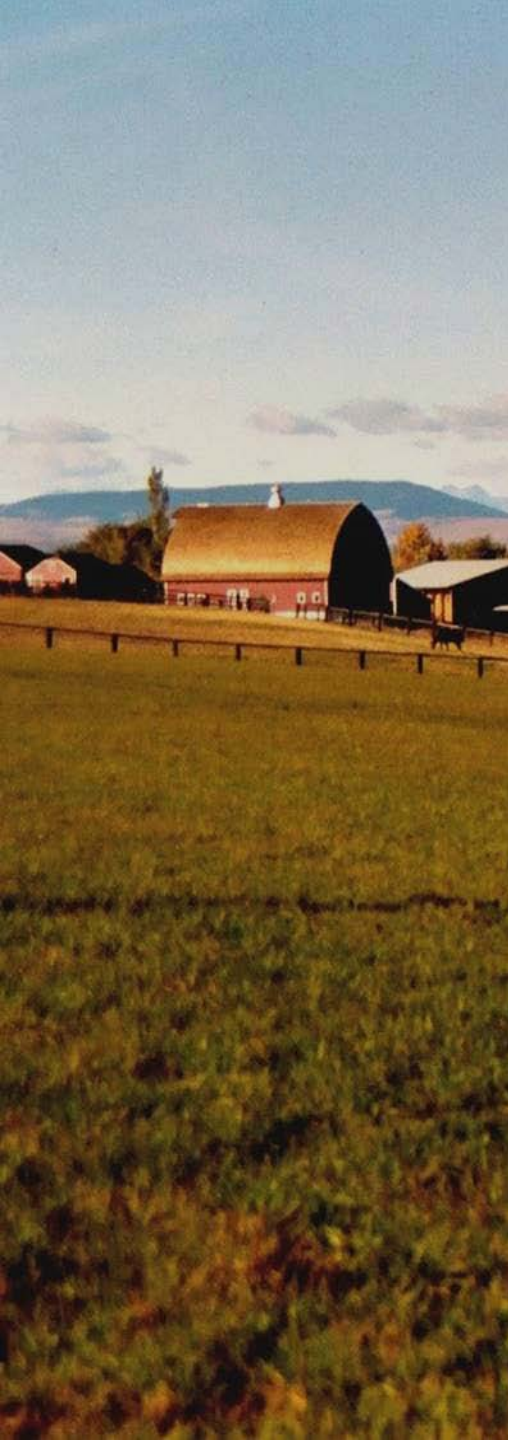
Teaway Farm

Swauk Pines

Cabin Creek

Swamp Lake

Gladmar Park



Teaway Farm

- East of Cle Elum
- 80 acres of working farmland and timberland
- CLC holds conservation easement
 - development rights are removed
- Farms and forests improve the quality of life of our region
 - Economically
 - Aesthetically
 - Environmentally





Swauk Pines

- Near Teanaway
- Donated conservation easement
- 40-acres Hidden Valley Ranch, located on Swuak Creek
- field areas, riparian/creek areas and recreation areas
- Ensures property is available for outdoor recreation, grazing, and hay production in perpetuity



Cabin Creek

- 400 acres
- Important for wildlife and recreation
 - Bull trout, spotted owl
 - Hunters, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers
- Purchased by CLC and transferred to WDFW



Swamp Lake

- 300 acres near Snoqualmie Pass
- Partnership between CLC, TPL, DNR
- TPL purchased, grant money reimbursed, ownership to CLC, easement to DNR
- Important cross-country ski trail system
- Best remaining habitat links for north-south movement of wildlife in Cascades
 - Gray wolf, spotted owl, grizzly bear, lynx

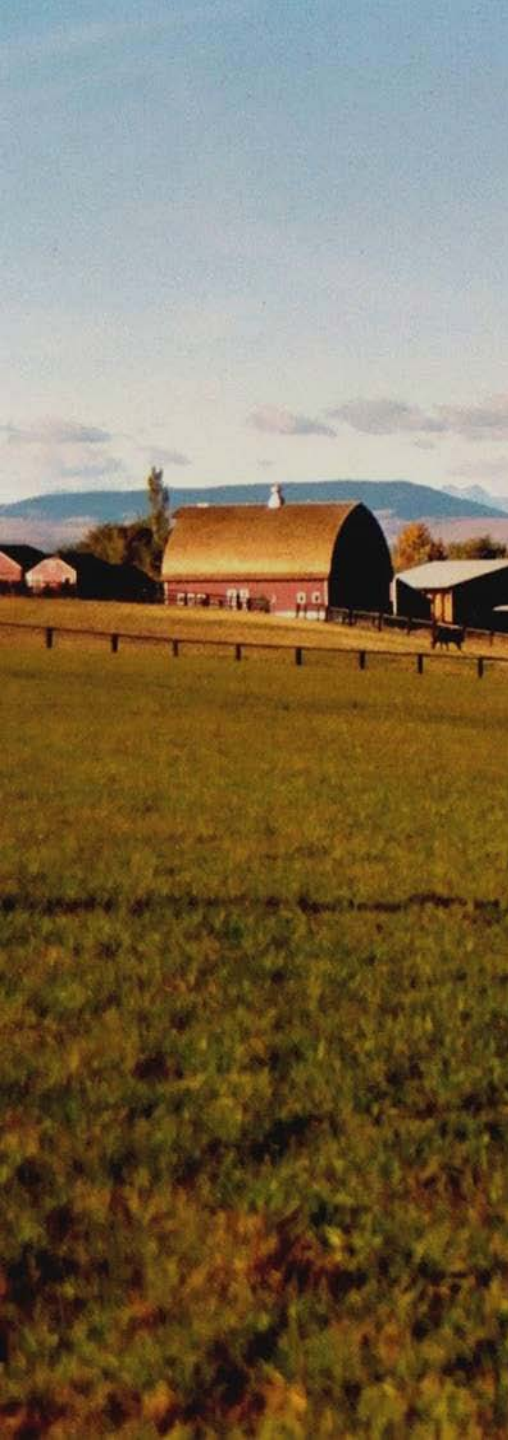
Gladmar Park, 2004



A photograph of a riverbank with trees and a large fallen log in the water. The trees have yellow and green leaves, suggesting autumn. The water is calm and reflects the sky and trees. The log is partially submerged and has some roots exposed.

Gladmar Park

- 45 acre island in Yakima River
- Partnership between CWU and Kittitas County brokered by CLC
- Goals:
 - Interagency agreement – 50 years
 - Restore public access
 - Living laboratory
 - Environmental education
 - Restoration/observation



Ongoing/Upcoming Projects

- Farmland Legacy Project
- I-90 Corridor
- Livable Cities
- Education and Outreach
- Kittitas County Conservation Awards Luncheon – September 20th



Questions?