



Great Peninsula Conservancy

2009 Annual Report

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come

The Power of Thinking Big



Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick

Thinking big led GPC to spearhead an effort to conserve the 167-acre Petersen farm near Silverdale.

Ideas are powerful. By targeting Great Peninsula Conservancy's conservation efforts on three big ideas: Streams & Estuaries, Forests, and Community Greenspaces, we have focused our energies, captured the attention of our members and partners, and achieved some success. But are we thinking big enough? The answer at GPC's recent board and staff retreat was a resounding, "no"! If we want to be sure the Great Peninsula's splendid shorelines and rich forests are still around for our children and grandchildren to enjoy, we need to think REALLY BIG. Visionary thinking sets the bar high, inspires others to imagine the seemingly impossible, and leads to unparalleled accomplishment.

So how does GPC go about thinking big? Instead of tackling one small estuary at a time, we need to envision a network of protected pocket estuaries. Instead of designing projects to protect tens or hundreds of acres of forestland, we need to scope out a plan to protect thousands of acres of forestland.

And we can't be shy about taking on open space projects of large magnitude.

How do we do all that with our small staff and limited financial resources? In many ways, large projects don't take any more staff

time and resources than small projects. Regardless of the project's size, we have to build relationships with landowners and pull together partnerships with agencies and community groups. Both small and large projects require outreach to the public and preparation of grant proposals. Of course, those grant proposals ask for more dollars when the project scope is large. But, in many instances, the grant programs are designed to favor big projects with their much larger environmental benefits.

Partnerships do become more critical in large projects. Many voices ensure the vision is a good one. Many partners bring diverse expertise to a project. And many hands make light work of complex challenges.

To get started, Great Peninsula Conservancy will build off of two recently initiated projects. First, GPC has signed an agreement with Northwest Natural Resource Group to undertake a joint campaign to conserve forestland across the Great Peninsula. NNRG's expertise in forest certification and the newly-emerging

forest carbon market complement GPC's conservation expertise. During this first year, we will be initiating model projects, while recruiting additional conservation partners and identifying new funding sources to magnify both the scope and impact of our work. Start-up funds for this initiative have been provided by a generous grant from the Bullitt Foundation.

Second, early this year Great Peninsula Conservancy launched an exciting project to save the 167-acre Petersen Farm in central Kitsap County (see page 3). In collaboration with a variety of farm agencies, environmental entities, and community groups, GPC is working to ensure this historic farm remains as a farm rather than become another housing subdivision or retail complex. This project likely will be one of the most expensive projects undertaken by GPC to date.

Thinking big – it's about leadership, partnership, and a grand vision of the Great Peninsula's future.

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

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2009 Finances in Review¹

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 162,597
Pledges Receivable	42,023
Prepaid Expenses	3,654
Investments	1,109,402
Property & Equipment	4,680,613

Total Assets\$5,998,289

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	\$ 5,526
Current Notes Payable	62,000
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 67,526
Notes Payable	248,000

Total Liabilities\$ 315,526

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$5,306,453
Temporarily Restricted	323,355
Permanently Restricted	52,955

Total Net Assets\$5,682,763

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$5,998,289

Revenue

Contributions	\$ 198,790
In kind Contributions	13,718
Other Income	15,675
Interest	31,315
Net Gains/Losses on Investments	96,173

Total Revenue\$ 355,671

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$ 236,422
Administrative Expenses	123,425
Fundraising Expenses	22,983

Total Expenses\$ 382,830

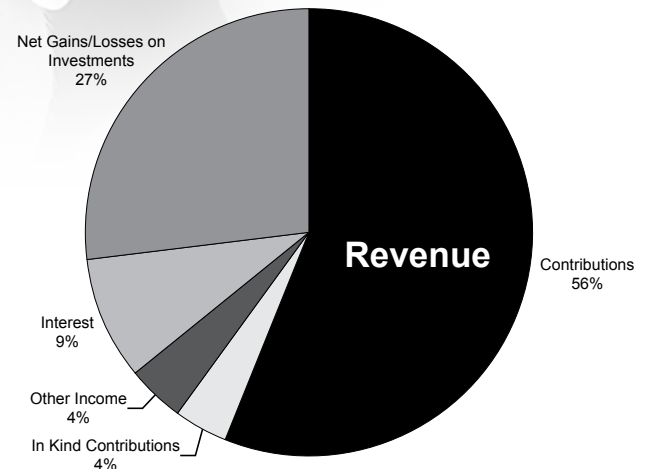
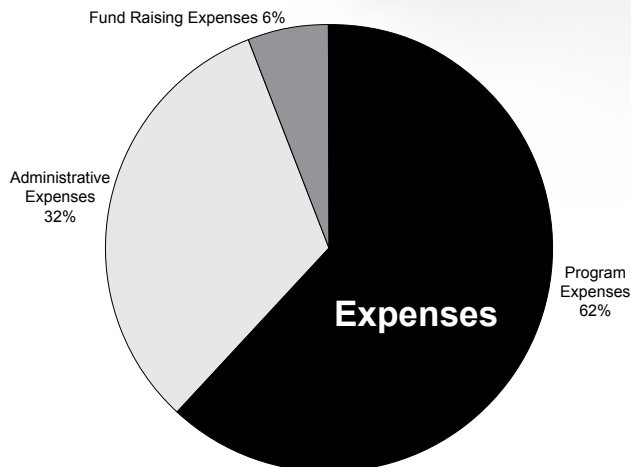
Change in net assets\$ -27,159

Net assets

at beginning of year 5,564,922

Prior Period Adjustment . 145,000

Net assets at end of year ...\$5,682,763



¹These abbreviated financial statements are derived from fully annotated financial statements audited by Sanders & Sanders CPAs PS in whose opinion they "present fairly", in all material respects, the financial position of Great Peninsula Conservancy for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Great Peninsula Conservancy

...protecting forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula

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Great Peninsula Conservancy Annual Report

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The Petersen Farm Legacy

At the end of the Clear Creek Trail in Silverdale, a piece of local history still stands as it has for well over 100 years. This land has been known since 1948 as the Petersen Farm. The story though, of how it became a farm and of those that called the Clear Creek Valley farm their home, begins around 1880.

Of course for centuries before then, the indigenous Suquamish used the Valley as a winter camping ground. When Europeans arrived, they found the area along Clear Creek at the head of Dyes Inlet a good place to settle and start a new life. By 1855 lumber mills had moved into the area, bringing loggers and mill workers who needed a home for their families.

Lands that had been cleared of trees were opened up to homesteading. Families were required to work the land, making it suitable for agriculture, before they could apply for a "patent" to legally own the land. Around 1890, three families obtained patents to land that would later comprise the present-day Petersen Farm. The families' names might be familiar even today: Levin, Holm, and Schold. Each obtained a patent on 120 acres stretching across Clear Creek Valley.

John Levin worked at a logging operation not far from where he would eventually settle. He landed dairy cattle from Olympia on the beach of Dyes Inlet and walked them up the valley to the farm. The property just to the south of Levin's, was homesteaded by John Holm. He was known to row his boat to Seattle to bring back supplies for himself as well as his neighbor Levin. A third family, the Scholds, settled immediately south of the Holm's place. Large portions of the Holm and Levin properties, and a small parcel of the Schold property, make up the present-day Petersen Farm.

Gerald Petersen returned to Kitsap County after earning an accounting degree from the University of Washington. Not wanting to sit behind a desk all day, Mr. Petersen set his sights on purchasing the Holm dairy farm, which at that time was owned by Theodore Hilstad. Mr. Hilstad was growing tired of the increased mechanization involved in farming and wanted to sell. So in 1948 Mr. Petersen and his wife Dorothy showed up to try their hands in the farming tradition of the Clear Creek Valley. The dairy ran until 1970, and then the farm became a beef operation, producing grass-fed beef and hay until Mr. Petersen's death late in 2009. Even now, hay is produced on the farm. In

his last years, Mr. Petersen counted on the help of several willing volunteers. In the words of one of them, Scott Hall, "Gerry had what he called a lot of 'unfinished symphonies' on the farm. I just helped him with some of these".



Photo Credit: Scott Hall

Gerry Petersen poses with his Ford 600 tractor in front of three silos built by the Petersen brothers.

The central building on the former Holm Farm is most assuredly the barn, dating to about 1902, and three nearby wooden silos, dating to the 1950s. The ax marks of hand hewn timber are still evident in the bones that hold up a barn built by fine hand craftsmanship. Both the silos and barn, while in disrepair, are hallmark historical pieces that Mr. Petersen was very proud to show to visitors. Having appreciated the painstaking work of those who came before him, Mr.

Petersen saw great value in preserving the land for future generations as a piece of Kitsap County's farming legacy.

Siv Carlson

Gerald and Dorothy Petersen Farm Conservation

The future of the largest farm in Central Kitsap was in question at the end of 2009, with the passing of Gerald Petersen, longtime owner, in September at the age of 94. Speculation about the 167 acres of farm and forest he worked with his wife Dorothy, who passed away many years ago, started to spread. The land likely could sprout houses, stores, and office buildings due to its prime location just outside of Silverdale. However, Mr. Petersen expressed a strong desire for the land to be sold intact as a working farm throughout his life and in his estate planning documents. As a result, Great Peninsula Conservancy is now leading a partnership with the Petersen Estate, community organizations, and farm agencies to honor Mr. Petersen's wishes and permanently protect the farm and its legacy. The partnership expects to raise funds to purchase a conservation easement on the farm. This protection will allow generations of farmers to continue to produce livestock and crops for the local community for years to come. The advent of the local-food movement has driven a rebirth of agriculture in Kitsap County. Conservation of the Petersen Farm, with its history, size, and central location, is vital to sustaining Kitsap's resurging farm economy.

Conservation Legacy Map Key

					Conservation Value							
County	Date	Acreage	Ownership	Forest	Historic	OpenSpace	Recreation	Shoreline	Stream	Wetland	Working Land	
K1	Appletree Cove – Kingston Trails – PUD #1	Kitsap	1991	21.60	L	•		•	•			
K2	Sinclair Inlet – Black Jack Creek – Ruby Marsh	Kitsap	1991	19.66	C	•		•		•	•	
K3	Hood Canal – Lofall A	Kitsap	1991	18.09	F			•				•
K4	Port Madison Bay – Indianola Greenway	Kitsap	1992	31.41 82.30	C	•		•	•	•		•
K5	Port Orchard Bay – Gilberton Creek	Kitsap	1992	4.12	F	•		•			•	
K6	Miller Bay – Cowling Creek Forest Preserve	Kitsap	1994	28.17	F	•		•	•		•	
K7	Dyes Inlet – Clear Creek Trail & Bucklin Hill Forest	Kitsap	1994	14.82	F							
				1.22	L	•		•	•		•	
			2009	4.05	C							
K8	Dyes Inlet – Woods Creek	Kitsap	1995	1.80	F	•		•			•	
K9	Hood Canal – Lofall B	Kitsap	1995	1.10	F			•				•
K10	Admiralty Inlet – Hansville Greenway	Kitsap	1995	6.70	C	•		•	•		•	•
K11	Port Orchard Bay – Steel Creek	Kitsap	1995	0.82	F			•				•
K12	Dyes Inlet – Barker Creek A	Kitsap	1996	9.91	F			•			•	
				10.00	C							
K13	Colvos Passage – Olalla Creek	Kitsap	1996	10.00	F	•		•				
K14	Dyes Inlet – Chico – Eldorado Water District	Kitsap	1997	40.00	C	•						
K15	Rich Passage – Watauga Beach	Kitsap	1999	28.15	C	•					•	
K16	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek	Kitsap	1999	7.38	C	•						•
K17	Henderson Bay – Burley Creek	Kitsap	1999	22.04	F	•						•
K18	Liberty Bay – Daniels Creek	Kitsap	2000	6.34	F			•			•	
K19	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek – Banner Forest	Kitsap	2001	139.00	C	•		•			•	
K20	Hood Canal - Bangor	Kitsap	2001	8.86	C	•			•			
K21	Port Gamble Bay – Martha John Creek	Kitsap	2001	7.00	C			•				•
K22	Hood Canal – Big Beef Creek – Smalser Refuge	Kitsap	2001	21.31	C			•			•	•
K23	Hood Canal – Guillemot Cove Park	Kitsap	2002	24.55	T	•		•			•	
K24	Rolling Bay – Silver Creek - Eglon	Kitsap	2002	20.00	F	•		•			•	
K25	Dyes Inlet – Chico Creek	Kitsap	2004	623.00	A	•		•	•		•	
K26	Yukon Harbor – Curley Creek – Curley Creek Estuary	Kitsap	2004	17.62	F				•	•		
K27	Yukon Harbor – Salmonberry Creek	Kitsap	2004	21.60	C			•			•	•
K28	Hood Canal – Little Anderson Creek	Kitsap	2004	10.00	F	•					•	
K29	Hood Canal – Stavis Bay	Kitsap	2005	24.72	A	•		•		•		
K30	Appletree Cove - Kingston	Kitsap	2005	2.70	F	•			•	•		
K31	Sinclair Inlet – Black Jack Creek	Kitsap	2006	9.67	F	•				•	•	
K32	Hood Canal – Harding Creek Tidelands & Tekiu Point	Kitsap	2006	4.95	F	•		•				•
			2010	7.00	C							
K33	Dyes Inlet – Barker Creek B	Kitsap	2008	7.80	C	•		•			•	
K34	Liberty Bay – Dogfish Creek – Fish Park	Kitsap	2008	7.43	T			•	•		•	•
M1	Hood Canal – Lynch Cove – Klingel/Bryan/Beard Refuge	Mason	1985	86.03	F			•			•	
			1988	3.90	C							
M2	Hood Canal – Union River – Davis Farm	Mason	1994	146.93	C	•				•		•
M3	Oakland Bay – Chapman Cove – Brewer Preserve	Mason	1999	1.00	F	•				•		•
M4	Hood Canal – Union River – Bear Creek Preserve	Mason	2008	9.07	F	•				•		
P1	Nisqually Reach – Johnson South Sound Refuge	Pierce	1986	25.81	F			•		•	•	
				42.55	C							
P2	Wollochet Bay – Rosedale – Ellis/Reed Forest	Pierce	1990 2008	202.93	C	•		•			•	•
P3	Henderson Bay – Home	Pierce	1995	2.50	F	•	•	•				
			1993	79.15	C							
P4	Henderson Bay – Rosedale – Lay Wildrose Preserve	Pierce	1996	3.82	F			•				
P5	Wollochet Bay – Gig Harbor – Wollochet Estuary	Pierce	2002	1.50	F			•				
			1998	31.73	C							
P6	Tacoma Narrows – Gig Harbor	Pierce	2000	16.00	C	•		•				•
P7	Henderson Bay – Rosedale – Sehmel Homestead Park	Pierce	2002	75.00	C	•	•	•	•			•
P8	Henderson Bay – Rosedale	Pierce	2005	26.70	C	•		•				

Ownership Key

GPC conserves lands using a variety of conservation tools including:

Assist (A): GPC assists other agencies and organizations with land protection. They retain ownership and GPC doesn't monitor. **Total Acres: 647.72**

Conservation Easement (C): Permanent restrictions placed on the land to protect conservation values. GPC monitors these lands but does not have ownership. **Total Acres: 1053.79**

Fee Ownership (F): These lands are owned and monitored by GPC. **Total Acres: 325.20**

Trail License (L): Allows GPC to install and maintain a public trail across private or public lands. **Total Acres: 22.82**

Transfer (T): Lands protected by GPC and passed to another organization or government agency for conservation use. **Total Acres: 31.98**

Total All Acres: 2,081.51

Conservation Value Key

GPC protects lands that possess conservation values including:

Forest: Helps maintain water quality, limits erosion, processes carbon dioxide, and protects animal habitats.

Historic: Protects the character of our communities and helps people maintain connections with the past.

Open Space: Helps prevent soil erosion and filters rainwater, also provides wildlife habitat and undeveloped vistas.

Recreation: Provides opportunity for relaxation and enjoyment of natural environments.

Shoreline: Serves as natural buffer, safeguards water quality, and provides wildlife habitat.

Stream: Provides habitat for fish and other wildlife, and safeguards water quality.

Wetland: Protects and improves water quality, helps control flooding and erosion, and provides habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Working Land: Working land (e.g. farmland, shellfish bed, forestry land) allows responsible management of lands to sustain local economies.

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