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For Immediate Release:

Important recreation access and habitat for endangered and threatened species, such as bull trout, spotted owl, wolf, grizzly bear and lynx has been protected with the recent purchase of property near Easton in Kittitas County.

About 40 acres, purchased with Salmon Recovery Board funds, compliments the adjacent 142-acre Big Creek property purchased last year by the Cascade Land Conservancy in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Conserving the Big Creek property will keep a one-hundred year-old common use trail available for hikers and horses that will continue to provide access into US Forest Service lands,” said Jim Armstrong a CLC board member.

“Cascade Land Conservancy has an abiding interest in the Big Creek watershed,” said Jill Arango, Kittitas County Conservation Director for the CLC. “Endangered species habitat is critical to conserve and so is access to our public lands. The purchases at Big Creek represent both of these conservation goals for our county.”

A key element on the purchases is providing habitat to support connectivity in this portion of the Cascades and especially to the planned new crossing structures on Interstate 90. The Conservancy will prepare a management plan which will outline the approach to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance that habitat. In addition, public access for recreation will be improved.

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