LILY POINT PROJECT NARRATIVE

Source: Whatcom Land Trust

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE.

1a. Priority Habitats: Whatcom Land Trust seeks a Nearshore Partnership grant of $2,022,500 to purchase Lily Point– a 90-acre parcel of undeveloped marine shoreline and 40 acres of tidelands located on the southeast corner of Point Roberts, Whatcom County. Fronting Boundary Bay to the east and Georgia Strait to the south, the property is important habitat for Chinook, Sockeye, Coho, Steelhead, Orca whales, Bald eagles, and migratory shore birds and waterfowl. (Maps 1, 2 & 3) The Lily Pt. property includes 4,130 feet of natural shoreline, two exceptional feeder bluffs, a large unstable forested hillside, a 7-acre accretion beach, productive tidelands and mature upland forest and riparian vegetation. Georgia Strait is the primary migration corridor and feeding area for threatened Chinook salmon, Bald eagles and Orca whales.

The following ecosystem processes are operative on Lily Point:

1. Marine riparian forests (70 acres) (functions: shade, benthic prey for salmon, large woody debris recruitment, nutrient deliver, slope stabilization, eagle nesting and roosting habitat).
2. Nearshore sediment delivery and transport (20 acres) (functions: long term sediment supply, spawning substrate, beach nourishment Boundary Bay)
3. Tidelands (40 acres) (functions: nearshore forage fish spawning habitat, shellfish habitat, herring spawn habitat, shorebird and waterfowl feeding areas)
4. Water quality (90 acres) (functions: healthy marine vegetation supporting marine wildlife habitat)

These ecosystem processes are a major driver in the food energy web that makes Boundary Bay one of the largest migratory bird feeding areas along the west coast of North America. (Figures 1-3)

Lily Pt.'s strategic location, its relatively large undeveloped and natural shoreline, and its combination of mature upland forests, riparian vegetation, eroding cliffs and ecologically rich tidelands give this project regional and international significance. The opportunity to acquire the site presents the most cost effective method of maintaining and improving these ecosystem features and provides the highest degree of certainty to the long-term benefit of wildlife in Georgia Strait. Acquisition, protection and management of Lily Pt. as a nature reserve will protect these habitats and ecosystem processes.

Lily Pt. is classified as one of the exceptional feeder bluffs in the region, providing spawning substrate for forage fish utilized by juvenile Chinook salmon. It is identified as a priority protection site in the Puget Sound Action Team Recovery Plan (Figure E-1.5: *South Georgia Strait Protection and Restoration Targets, Regional Nearshore and Marine Aspects of Salmon Recovery, Puget Sound Action Team, June 28, 2005, Appendix E-1, pp.5-6).* The site also provides "shallow, fine substrate features" for Chinook salmon near the natal estuary of the Nooksack River, is a functioning migratory corridor for Chinook and Sockeye salmon and is a food source for juvenile salmon. The Regional Nearshore Plan identifies protection of these types of functioning habitats, such as Lily Point, as the "first major strategic approach" in restoring salmon habitat.

The Nature Conservancy identifies Lily Pt., Point Roberts and Boundary Bay as a "Priority Conservation Area" in its "Puget Trough-Georgia Basin Ecoregional Assessment" because of the site's exceptional and regionally important ecological values. Priority Conservation Areas are defined as areas of biodiversity concentration that contain target species, communities and ecosystems and are considered the highest priorities for conservation in the region *(Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin Ecoregional Assessment, 2004).*

Lily Pt. is also specified for conservation in the Whatcom County Enhanced Nearshore Assessment (August 2006*);* "Conservation in the Lily Pt. reach should include the high value, unbulkheaded, exceptional feeder bluffs that supply all of the sediment for the Maple Beach reach." (*p. 41*). According to the "Whatcom County Feeder Bluff Mapping Drift Cell Ranking Analysis" (*Johannessen, 2005*), the feeder bluffs at Lily Pt. provide, "huge volumes of sediment from Lily Point. and immediately north" to the accretion shore forms along the western side of Boundary Bay and Maple Beach. (Figures 4& 5)

Boundary Bay, whose ecological health is directly linked to Lily Pt., has been recognized as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International, a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network Site (WHSRN), and a U.N. Wetland of International Importance especially for Waterfowl (RAMSAR Site)-UN designation Alaksen.

Protection of estuarine and nearshore marine habitat is identified as a general goal of the WRIA #1 Salmonid Recovery Plan. Among the strategies identified for salmon recovery, the plan states, "Protect and restore, to the extent feasible, the processes regulating the supply, transport and deposition of sediment, water, large wood, and nutrients in the estuarine and nearshore environment." *(WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan, 2005, p. 216)* The plan also states: "Protect and restore nearshore marine habitat structure and function", "Protect and restore shoreline conditions" and "Protect and restore forage fish spawning areas." The acquisition and protection of Lily Pt. will accomplish all of these salmon recovery goals.

The history of Lily Pt. testifies to its fecundity. "For many centuries, the property was the site of a large village and reef net fishery, and was the center of traditional salmon culture. … [S]ome of the largest migratory salmon runs have come to this point as they make passage to the Fraser River…. Lily Pt. is widely considered the most important reef net fishery and 'one of the most important salmon fisheries for the Central Coast Salish.' An indication of historical levels of production can be gained from an August 1881 newspaper report that 10,000 salmon were taken in three Indian reef nets during a six hour period." *(Application to list Lily Point in national Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property, June 24. 1992)*

During a visit to the site at a minus tide on May 16, 2007, a board member and two staff of the Land Trust observed over 100 bald eagles soaring, forging and perching on trees and beach rocks at Lily Point. Eagles on the beach were often surrounded by clam squirts. (Figures 6 &7)

1b. Habitat Linkages: Lily Pt. maintains habitat linkages at two levels. First, on the site itself the mature upland forests anchor soil and filter water on its way into the marine system. The forests also provide perching, foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of birds, including eagles and migrating and resident raptors. As the cliffs at the forest

interface erode, they deposit course woody debris and forest nutrients, as well as sand and gravel into the marine environment. Eroded material replenishes the beaches at Lily Point, which are rich in mollusks, crabs and shrimp (Figures 8 & 9) and contributes the material needed for the reproduction of forage fish essential to salmon fry, shore birds and migrating waterfowl. The salmon fry grow into the mature salmon fed on by eagles that roost in the forest above and the Orcas that swim in the waters off Lily Point.

At the second level, the ecosystem of Lily Pointy is essentially linked to the larger ecosystems of Boundary Bay and Georgia Strait. Lily Pt. contributes fresh water food, nutrients, habitat structure and insects (important to Chinook and chum salmon known to be dependent on shallow, nearshore waters) to the greater marine ecosystem. However, its most dramatic contribution is sediment to forage fish spawning areas, to bird and shellfish habitat in Boundary Bay and to beach nourishment north and west of Lily Point. (Figure10). The Lily Pt. upland is a massive deposit of glacial sediment with exposed eroding bluffs on the east side rising 200 feet above Boundary Bay. This portion of the bluff feeds nearshore drift cells supplying replenishing sediment to Maple Beach and Boundary Bay to the north. A large rotational block landslide on the southern side of the point is depositing trees, shrubs and sediment to the south facing beaches. (Figure 11 & 12) This drift cell supplies sand and gravels to the westerly moving drift cell on south facing beaches of Point Roberts and Light House Point. The erosional shoreforms of Lily Pt. provide an active link between very large glacial sediment deposits on the Lily Pt. upland with a northerly and westerly drift cells along Georgia Strait. Lily Pt. ranked "High" for drift cell connectivity in the "Whatcom County Feeder Bluff Mapping Drift Cell Ranking Analysis"(*Johannessen, 2005).* It is in a distinctive landscape location providing habitat linkages between upland sediment sources, riparian forests and nearshore drift cells. The project site is also the apex of two divergent drift cells providing sediment to Boundary Bay to the north and Point Roberts/Lighthouse Point to the west.

1c. Self-sustaining processes: This project is completely self-sustaining because it eliminates the need to intervene on behalf of nearshore ecological functions by pre-empting land uses that interfere with those functions through the prevention of residential and resort commercial development. The intent of this project is to allow natural ecosystem functions to operate at natural rates and scales.

Residential development is the greatest threat to the ecological functions found at Lily Point. If Lily Pt. is not acquired for conservation purposes residential development of the property will significantly impair ecological functions. Zoning on the property allows up to one house per acre and permits clustering. An example of one possible future for Lily Pt. can be seen in the development plans for a neighboring property just west of the project site. Earlier this year a developer applied for a 103 lot subdivision on a 103-acre parcel. Under the proposal, a tight-line drainage system is proposed to carry storm water run-off pollutants from roads and roofs "to the base of the slope and into Georgia Strait." The plan also calls for subdivision of the shoreline so that 26 lot owners will each have private control over riparian vegetation management and landscaping. Owners of expensive water facing lots will likely cut trees to open views, install lawns and non-native landscaping and construct individual beach accesses and shore protections. (Figures 13-14) The upland riparian forest will be largely lost. Over time the cumulative

effective of these individual actions will degrade and damage the Lily Pt. ecosystems. Acquisition of the site will permanently end this threat. Perpetual land use as a nature reserve is self-sustaining.

Ownership will provide the control necessary to repair damage caused by human intrusion. The property is currently laced with ad hoc trails, trail bike jumps and obstacle courses, and impromptu shelters and fire rings. Working with Whatcom County Parks, which has a strong presence on Point Roberts and a long running partnership with the Land Trust, we will replace this uncontrolled network of uses with several designated, marked and maintained trails over existing roadbeds. Whatcom County will contribute funds to the acquisition and is enthusiastic about adding controlled human use of Lily Pt. to its park functions at Point Roberts. We will manage invasive species on the property. We will commission a professional environmental assessment of pilings and other remnants of a cannery that existed for 20 years at Lily Pt .and take appropriate action in response to that assessment. (Figures 15 & 16) We will regularly monitor the property to ensure that these remedial measures are permanent.

1d. At Risk Species: The Lily Pt. project will have immediate and long term benefits for the following species known to utilize either the project site directly or known to inhabit the nearshore waters and tidelands associated with the property:

Species	Project Benefits
Pacific herring	Protects eel grass forest off eastern shore
Chinook salmon	Protects herring and forage fish habitat
Bald eagle	Protects nesting, roosting and forage sites on property and along nearshore
Killer whale, southern residents	Protects prey base: forage fish spawning and salmon feeding areas .

Other species of concern that may also benefit from the project include:
***Birds*:** Cassin's Auklet, Common Loon, Common Murre, Brandt's Cormorant, Double Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Marbled Murrelet, Tufted Puffin and Western Grebe (*Birds of Whatcom County, Status and Distribution, T. Wahl, 1995)*
***Fish**:* Bull Trout, Steelhead (*Seadoc Society, 2004)*
Mammals: Harbor Porpoise, Sea Lion (*Marine Resources of Whatcom County, Anchor Environmental, 2001)*

1e. Information Gap: The Lily Pt. site offers excellent opportunities to conduct long term analysis of marine riparian functions and processes related to juvenile salmonid use. The project site will allow careful monitoring of (1) the role of nearshore riparian habitat on food availability for salmon fry, migrating shore birds and waterfowl; (2) the role of sediment supply from Lily Pt. cliffs on beach nourishment in Boundary Bay (volumes, rates, relationship to eel grass growth and health), (3) the role of nearshore habitat quality in relationship to Orca whale populations (health, food supply, and refuge), and (4) the relationships between eagle concentrations and viable heron nesting sites.

2. TECHNICAL MERIT:

2a. Conceptual Model: The conceptual model of the Lily Pt. project is based on an understanding of the structural and biological interdependence of the upland forest, sediment cliffs, inter-tidal and off shore habitats. Our model follows the "precautionary principal" that protecting functioning ecosystems is more cost effective, has longer benefit, and higher rate of success than restoring degraded systems. As it affects both the project site and adjacent marine environments, Lily Pt. currently provides high quality major ecological functions associated with marine riparian environments – soil and slope stability, sediment control, wildlife habitat, microclimate, water quality, nutrient input, fish prey production, habitat structure and shade. (Figure 17) (*Brennan, J.S., and H. Culverwell, 2004, Marine Riparian: An Assessment of Riparian Functions in the Marine Ecosystems, Washington Sea Grant Program*) Significant degradation of any of these components threatens the health of the whole system. The only way to protect this high functioning system for now and in the long run is to own it and operate it as a nature reserve.

The conceptual model must encompass economic realities that threaten its viability. Point Roberts is only a half hour drive from Vancouver. (Figure 18) Two recent multimillion-dollar transactions indicate the accelerating pace and scale of development at Point Roberts. One of the transactions, just last month, involves a proposed 103-house development less than 500 feet west of Lily Pt. After Welsh Development, Inc. acquired Lily Pt., Whatcom County approved a major development for condominiums, 74 residential lots, a golf course and a regional recreational resort on properties including Lily Pt. For reasons unknown, the developer allowed the permits to expire in 2003. Lily Pt. is now on the market. Owners of expensive, marine oriented property are likely to want to maximize their use and unlikely to be restrained by lax county regulations and virtually nonexistent enforcement at a location so remote from the rest of Whatcom County.

2b. Interdisciplinary Review: The project has been reviewed and endorsed by: 1) an interdisciplinary team at Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University. (Ex.1), and; the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee (part of the Federal Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative) (Ex.2)

2c. Probability of success: This project has a high probability of success. The goal of the project is to protect the fully functioning ecosystem processes of the marine nearshore environment at Lily Pt. The threshold mechanism for accomplishing that goal is the acquisition of Lily Pt. Owner Welsh Development, Inc is a willing seller; commitments for matching funds are in hand; and, with a substantial Nearshore Partnership grant, we will have sufficient funds to purchase the property. The property will be protected in perpetuity and human use limited to activities that do not impact natural functions. Acquisition of functioning ecosystems is recognized as the most cost effective and successful long-term action to recover threatened and endangered species. With careful monitoring, an active educational program, a network of partners and supporters, and the control that comes with ownership, we are highly likely to succeed in protecting ecological functions.

2d. Monitoring: Monitoring will occur on two levels. First, Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County Parks will monitor human use of the property to prevent activity detrimental to ecological functioning. The second level of monitoring will be hypothesis

driven and will be carried out by an interdisciplinary team. This second level of monitoring will include assessment of impact from limited human activity.

An interdisciplinary team from Western Washington University (John McLaughlin, PhD Wildlife Ecologist, Conservation Biology; Tom Terich, PhD Physical Geographer, Coastal Zone Processes; David Shull, PhD Marine Ecologist. Oceanographer; Andrew Bach, PhD Geomorphologist, Soil Scientist; John Bower, PhD Ornithologist; Wendy Walker, MA Environmental Educator) will develop baseline data for the project site and for its relation to the surrounding marine environment. Gathering of baseline data and monitoring will involve students as part of student – faculty research projects and as part of courses in the college curriculum.

Monitoring questions will include:

1. To what extent does Lily Pt. contribute to nearshore processes, particularly sediment supply, nutrient input, fish prey production and habitat structure?
2. Is the contribution to natural processes at Lily Pt. significant for maintaining healthy eelgrass and bird habitat in Boundary Bay and the Georgia strait?
3. Does the interplay of the mature riparian forest, the eroding cliffs, the intertidal zone and the off shore environment contribute to the protection of threatened wildlife species?

3. READINESS

3a. Qualifications: We have personnel with the skills and experience to successfully complete the project**:** 1. Gordon Scott-Whatcom Land Trust, Conservation Director, 25 years natural resource management and 10 years land conservation experience in Northwest Washington; 2. Rand Jack-Attorney and 23-year member Whatcom Land Trust Board of Directors, negotiated nearly 100 land acquisition and conservation projects; 3. Eric Carabba-Whatcom Land Trust, Land Steward, graduate Huxley College of Environmental Studies, wilderness trail builder and former US Army Ranger.
4. Mike McFarlane-Director Whatcom County Parks and Recreation; 5. WWU Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team (see 2d above)

3b. Record of Success: Whatcom Land Trust has completed over 100 land conservation transactions. Examples include:

- Nesset Farm complex – 341 acres along 1 3/4 miles of South Fork of the Nooksack, 1989;
- Canyon Lake Community Forest-2,260 acre watershed with 1000 year old Alaska yellow cedar, $3,650,000 purchase facilitated by Whatcom Land Trust in 1998;
- Stimpson Family Nature Reserve- 390 acre nature preserve in Lake Whatcom Watershed donated to Whatcom Land Trust, managed by Whatcom County Parks and Washington DNR Natural Heritage Program, completed 2000;
- Racehorse Creek – 395 acres with 3 1/2 miles of riparian forest along North Fork of the Nooksack and Racehorse Creek ,SRFB funding $1,080,000, completed 2001;
- Steiner-230 acre, $1,035,000 acquisition by Whatcom Land Trust in partnership with Salmon Recovery Funding Board, completed 2007
- Pt. Whitehorn-54 acre Georgia Strait shoreline acquisition by Whatcom Land Trust including 1,900 feet of marine shoreline, $1,099,000, completed 2007.

Whatcom Land Trust is in full compliance on all grants and contracts.

3c. Project Readiness: Status Category-Negotiation. Property is for sale. Letter of Intent from the landowner and Preliminary Title Report are attached EX.s 3 & 4. Appraisal and Environmental Site Assessment is scheduled for completion.

4. COST JUSTIFICATION.

4a. Cost-effectiveness: Acquisition for protection of valued ecosystem functions is considered the most cost effective way to secure the long-term maintenance of natural processes (*Regional Nearshore and Marine Aspects of Salmon Recovery, Guidance for Protection and Restoration of the Nearshore Ecosystem of Puget Sound, 2005*.) When compared to restoration projects, protection actions are usually far more successful in accomplishing habitat goals, due primarily to the greater failure rate of and shorter life spans of restoration projects (*Hoobyar, 1999*).

The $3,500,000 negotiated purchase price for the 90-acre property, plus 40 acres of tidelands is reasonable in comparison to the current fair market value of comparable properties in the region. In April 2007 a similarly zoned and situated 36-acre property 475 feet west of the Lily Pt. site sold for $3,071,545. By contrast, the 90-acre Lily Pt. site is for sale at $3,500,000.

4b. Reasonable Budget: Budget is complete and includes in kind match for project management, administration, baseline documentation, monitoring, acquisition and closing costs.

4c. Match: We have preliminary commitments for 43% matching funds.

Whatcom Land Trust in kind services:	$ 11,573
Whatcom County Conservation Futures Fund	$ 500,000 (Ex. 5)
Penalty Payment Shell Oil Company	$ 500,000 (Ex. 6)
Whatcom Land Trust, Land Acquisition Fund	$ 500,000
Total match	*$1,511,573 (Match Percentage 43%)*

If the ESRP grant is less than the requested amount, Whatcom Land Trust will make every effort to raise the additional funds required to complete the transaction.

5. PUBLIC SUPPORT.

5a. Public Education: Public education will take place on five levels. 1. The Land Trust has an active program of outreach and public education that includes guided educational tours and displays at public events. 2. The monitoring program will incorporate WWU students in faculty-student research projects and as part of course curriculum. 3. The WSU Beach Watchers will establish an educational program based on ecosystem functions at Lily Pt. (Ex. 9). 4. County Parks will conduct on site educational programs. 5. Educational signs will be installed on site.

5b. Partnership: Partners include: Washington Department of Ecology (Ex.6); Whatcom County (Ex.5); Lummi Nation (Ex.7 and 8); Western Washington University (Ex.1); Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee (Ex.2); WSU Beach Watchers (Ex. 9): Point Roberts Taxpayers Association (Ex.10).

Budget-Lily Point Acquisition

Costs of actions to be completed under ESRP funding-Lily Point Protection-Whatcom Land Trust					
	ESRP Funds Requested	Non-state funds secured match	State Funds	Remaining match	Total
Personnel		$ 8,900.00			$ 8,900.00
Fringe benefits		$ 500.00			$ 500.00
Travel		$ 523.80			$ 523.80
Supplies		$ 100.00			$ 100.00
Contractual		$ 1,000.00			$ 1,000.00
Construction					$ -
Other					$ -
Land	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 1, 500,000.00 (1)			$3,500,000.00
Closing	$ 20,000.00				$ 20,000.00
Education	$ 2,500.00				$ 2,500.00
Subtotal	$ 2,022,500.00	$ 1,511,023.80			$2,533,523.80
Indirect Costs		$ 550.00			$ 550.00
Total	$ 2,022,500.00	$ 1, 511,573.80			$3,534,073.80

(1) $500,000 from Whatcom County is not technically secured but we are confident in the commitment from the County Executive (See Ex. 5)

Budget Narrative

- Personnel- The estimated time and work item for each employee is listed below:

Employee	Work Items	Hours	Rate	Totals
Conservation Director	Property research, title review, negotiations, project coordination	80	$ 50.00	$4,000.00
Land Steward	Site evaluation, monitoring, restoration oversight	60	$ 40.00	$2,400.00
Development Director	Fund raising	20	$ 50.00	$1,000.00
Office Manager	Document management, communication	30	$ 30.00	$ 900.00
Bookkeeper	Financial accounting and reporting	24	$ 25.00	$ 600.00
Totals		214	$195.00	$8,900.00

- Fringe Benefit = 5.6% of wages
- Travel – Estimated 9 trips to Lily Point from Bellingham, 120 mile round trip = 1080 miles x $0.485 /mile = $523.8
- Supplies-Paper, office supplies, etc.
- Contractual-Removal and recycle old vehicles and remnant metal from beach.
- Land-Estimated land cost, to be confirmed by fair market appraisal
- Closing-Appraisal, taxes, escrow, title insurance, Hazard Materials review.

- Education-Brochures, signs, displays, guest experts.
- Indirect-4.9% of estimated total WLT administrative cost.
- 60 hours of volunteer time by attorney and Board member Rand Jack are not included in the budget

Match Narrative

The total match provide for this grant is $1,511,573.80, or 43% of total project budget.

Of that total match, $500,000 is being provided by Whatcom County from the Conservation Futures Fund (Ex.5). A second $500,000 of the match comes from Shell Oil Company through the Washington Department of Ecology as part of an Innovative Settlement of the penalty for the Whatcom Creek Pipeline Explosion (Ex. 6) The remaining $511,573.80 of the match will come from private donation to the Whatcom Land Trust's Land Acquisition Funds and General Operating Budget.

Exhibit 11

CHELHTENEM – LILY POINT STORY

Point Roberts formed from the sand and gravel outwash of retreating glaciers 15,000 years ago. The highest reach of this glacial deposit, some 200 feet above the sea at the southeast corner of Point Roberts, is Lily Point, or, in Native Salish language Chelhtenem, "hang salmon for drying."

Point Roberts was an island until the Fraser River delta grew to connect it to the mainland. In 1846, Point Roberts again became an island, not geographically but politically, when the United States and England signed a treaty establishing the international border with Canada at the 49th parallel, severing Point Roberts from the U.S. mainland.

Archeologists date the earliest human occupation of the Point Roberts at 9,000 years ago. A Spanish explorer reported "an incredible quantity of rich salmon and numerous Indians" at Lily Point in 1791. A year later Peter Puget, an officer with Captain Vancouver, described a seasonal village at Lily Point with houses for 400 to 500 people. The close passage of salmon around Lily Point on their way to their home waters in the Nooksack and Fraser Rivers undoubtedly inspired placement of the village.

Lily Point was the most important Native reef net fishery and one of the most significant salmon fisheries of the Central Coast Salish. In 1889, 16 Native reef nets were in operation and a single net would catch as many as 2,000 fish a day. A newspaper reported in 1881 that three reef nets took 10,000 fish in six hours.

For many centuries Chelhtenem was a center of traditional salmon culture and a place of great spiritual power for Native Peoples. The First Salmon Ceremony honored the returning salmon and directed them into the reef nets. The bones of the first fish "were carefully returned to the sea where the fish regained its form and told other salmon how well it had been treated, thus allowing the capture of other fish and insuring a return the following year." (Application for inclusion of Chelhtenem ("Lily Point") in the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property, 1992).

In the late 19th century, non-Indian fish traps displaced traditional reef nets. Alaska Packers purchased a year old cannery at Lily Point in 1884. The cannery was abolished in 1917, leaving pilings and debris still visible today. Chelhtenem was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1994 as a site of National Cultural, Traditional and Spiritual Significance, the second place in Washington State receiving such a designation.

Point Roberts is only a half hour drive from Vancouver. As the city flourished in the latter part of the 20th century, development pressure grew at Point Roberts. After Welsh Development, Inc. acquired Lilly Point, Whatcom County approved a major development for condominiums, a golf course, 74 residential lots, and a regional recreational resort on properties including Lily Point. For reasons unknown, the developer allowed the permits to expire in 2003 without beginning construction. Lilly Point is now on the market.

Two multimillion-dollar transactions in the last three months indicate the accelerating pace and scale of development at Point Roberts. One of the transactions, just last month, involves a proposed 103-house development less than 500 feet west of Lily Point. Whatcom County owns three of the four corners of Point Roberts – Monument Park, Lighthouse Park and Maple Beach, the latter of which was given to the county by Whatcom Land Trust encumbered by a restrictive conservation easement. Only Lily Point, by far the most ecologically important of the four corners, remains exposed to development.

By whatever mix of spirit and ecological powers, Lily Point remains a place of prolific productivity just as it was when Salish people evoked spirit powers to ensure the return of the salmon to Chelhtenem and direct migrating fish to the reef nets.

> The site is known for numerous eagles, heron, and loons. In addition, some of the largest migratory salmon runs have come to this point as they make passage to the Fraser River. In addition, the area is abundant in clams and crabs, and features a rich marine ecosystem…. Indeed, Chelhtenem has

> changed little in historic period; it still reflects the landforms, vegetation, and water resources that attracted and sustained the original inhabitants and their descendants.

(Application to national Historic Register). Perhaps by the grace of a spirit power, the plentiful natural heritage of Lily Point is still ours to preserve, but the opportunity will pass if we do not act.