Another busy year for our stewardship crew caring for our land and trails. Our summer internship program grew, from 3 to 5 months long, and we formed a new partnership with Veterans Conservation Corps, adding a veteran intern to our already expanded team of 4 summer interns. It was a fun, productive summer. This was a memorable team and we are so thankful for their hard work and commitment to conservation. Just look at what we accomplished with their help:

**Trails:**
- Maintained 10 miles of existing trail,
- Built ¼ mile of new trail on Maury Island,
- Built a trail to Kneeshaw Pond,
- Built box steps and made trail improvements to many parts of the Fisher pond trail system,
- Doubled the parking area at the upper Shinglemill trailhead,
- Installed split rail fencing around new trailhead parking area, and
- Planted 300 native trees to mitigate for parking area impacts.

**Stewardship:**
- Maintained 25 acres of pasture land,
- Maintained 15 acres of restoration plantings,
- Cleared 2 acres of invasive species,
- Installed 80 pieces of large woody debris into Judd Creek for salmon habitat,
- Removed over 1000 feet of chain link fence in Paradise Valley,
- Painted the interior of the Kneeshaw house,
- Removed the old pump house from Matsuda pond,
- Removed two derelict sheds along Judd Creek,
- Helped for a week with the Elwha dam removal project,
- Worked with the Vashon Nature Center to monitor forage fish sites and bulkhead removal projects,
- Cleaned up multiple piles of garbage and debris on the Greig, Busch, & Kneeshaw properties, and - Gigged for invasive bullfrogs!

**MATSUDA FARM UPDATE**

2018 was a year of great progress on Matsuda Farm. We are now growing and selling produce wholesale to the Vashon School Dist, Vashon Food Bank, IGA Vashon, East West Produce, Earthen Bistro, and Bramble House. Thanks to KCD and our volunteers, we are now growing food for our Island community.

**Progress made on Matsuda Farm in 2018:**
- Seeded, transplanted, and maintained Matsuda Farms first row crops,
- Built a 30’x50’ hoop house to store farm materials and machinery,
- Spread lime and planted multiple cover crops over 2 acres,
- Harvested fresh produce for Matsuda Farm customers, and
- Installed drip irrigation system.

**2018 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The expansion of Frog Holler Forest, located on south Vashon, was the conservation story of 2018. It took two years to help King County get this new preserve off the ground, starting with the 60-acre anchor purchase from Richard and Sheila Doane in ’16. We added another 12-acres to the preserve thanks to Don Cole and Joan Wortis in September 2018. The patience and support offered by the Doanes’ and Cole-Wortis families are what made Vashon’s newest community forest, complete with multi-use trails, happen.

Last December, King County added another 40 acres, bringing the preserve acreage total to 112. On December 28, we added 10 more acres to the preserve when two parcels popped up unexpectedly on the market. Your nimble Land Trust jumped at the opportunity, using funds from our Opportunity Fund to make the purchase happen. This year we hope to transfer those ten acres plus sixteen previously donated by Tom and Margaret Hodnett to King County. And, we are busy negotiating several other purchases for next year and beyond.