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July E-News

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July Updates from Great Land Trust

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100 MILES OF SALMON STREAMS



GLT reached the amazing milestone of **conserving over 100 miles of salmon streams!** We're thrilled to be able to share this news with you, and recognize that we've only been able to reach this milestone because of your support. [Click here](#) to read more about what it means to have conserved 100 miles of salmon streams, and to check out our project map.

SUMMER SCAVENGER HUNT

Do you know an Alaskan kid looking for some summer fun? It's not too late to participate in our Summer Scavenger Hunt! Lace up those hiking boots, grab your binoculars, and get outside! And did we mention there's ice cream at the end? [Click here for details!](#)



NEW KENAI RIVER PROJECT

This month, GLT completed a project to conserve 11.4 acres of Lower Kenai River frontage at river mile 10. This project protects important wetland habitat, as well as a quarter mile of river frontage along the Kenai River near the popular 'Mud Island' fishing hole. It's adjacent to other conserved lands, creating a larger corridor of protection along the shores of the this well-loved river.



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Our Stewardship Coordinator Matt had an intimate moment with a bald eagle on a recent conservation easement monitoring visit. That's a stare right into your soul if we've ever seen one! *Photos by Matt McMillan*

PAST PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



2020 is GLT's 25th anniversary. Throughout this year we are looking back on the projects, people, and hard work that have gotten us to where we are today. This month, we share the story of a property that's both a historic homestead and an intact estuary that GLT has conserved.

In early 2010, GLT began working with the Harbeson, Chapman, and Barlow families to conserve their historic homestead in honor of their parents. Lying on the northeastern banks of Knik Arm near the old Knik Townsite, their 30-acre O'Brien Creek property was identified by GLT in 2010 as part of a GIS-based parcel prioritization that highlighted privately owned parcels in the Mat-Su Borough with estuarine habitat. Ranked in the top 100 parcels out of over 100,000 parcels assessed for their conservation value, the parcel includes 20 acres of coastal wetlands, intertidal mudflats, salt marsh and stretches of O'Brien Creek that provide migration, spawning, and juvenile rearing habitat for Coho salmon.

On March 7, 2013, after three years of cooperative effort, GLT joined with the Harbeson, Chapman, and Barlow families to celebrate a new conservation easement that includes O'Brien Creek Estuary. Over sparkling cider toasts and family tales of wildlife encounters—baby Beluga whales frolicking at the mouth of O'Brien Creek, stickleback fish marooned in puddles on the flats—we sealed the deal to conserve their land for generations to come and honor their parents with the conservation of the family homestead.

This property is not open to the public but provides public benefit in the form of

habitat for fish and wildlife that travel through its boundaries.

As always, we couldn't do our work without our supporters! Thank you for believing in our mission, our conservation work, and in us.



Ellen, Libby, Dave, Trish, Matt, Amanda & Mike (clockwise from top left)

Your Great Land Trust team

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