



# Audubon WASHINGTON

Received @ 12-3-03  
BFM mtg.

P.O. Box 462  
Olympia, WA 98507  
Tel: 360-786-8020  
Fax: 360-786-5054  
wa.audubon.org

Mr. Gene Duvernoy, President  
Cascade Land Conservancy  
615 Second Avenue, Suite 525  
Seattle, WA 98104

Transmitted via facsimile: (206) 624-7025      Attention: Tim Hatley

February 22, 2002

Dear Mr. Duvernoy,

I am writing on behalf of Audubon Washington in regard to the Maury Island Conservation Initiative. Audubon Washington recognizes the importance of nearshore habitat on Vashon and Maury Islands, and supports the Cascade Land Conservancy's efforts to ensure conservation of the islands' ecological resources.

Last year the National Audubon Society identified Quartermaster Harbor as an Important Bird Area, one of 53 sites in Washington so recognized. Important Bird Areas are sites deemed essential for long term conservation of native birds in our state. Quartermaster Harbor was chosen as an Important Bird Area because it is one of the last strongholds for the Western Grebe, a species that has suffered a steep population decline in Puget Sound in the past two decades.

The lands identified for acquisition by the Maury Island Conservation Initiative contribute to the integrity of the food chain on which the Western Grebes depend. The shorelines of the islands contain important eelgrass beds, a juvenile Chinook salmon migration corridor, and the largest herring spawning grounds in Central Puget Sound. These resources provide vital foraging sites for the grebes and 26 other species of aquatic birds.

We hope that the Cascade Land Conservancy will be successful in its efforts to leverage private and public resources to create a lasting aquatic conservancy legacy. We appreciate your efforts and wish you success.

Sincerely,

Jeff Parsons  
Executive Director





SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

# Cascade Chapter

8511 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE #201, Seattle WA, 98115

Phone: 206/523-2147

<http://www.cascadechapter.org/>

May 22, 2002

Gene Duvernoy  
President  
Cascade Land Conservancy  
615 Second Avenue, Suite 525  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
(206) 624-7025 fax

Re: Maury Island Conservation Initiative

Dear Gene:

I am writing on behalf of the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club in regard to the Maury Island Conservation Initiative. The Sierra Club recognizes the importance of the nearshore habitat on Vashon and Maury Islands and supports the Cascade Land Conservancy's work to ensure the long term conservation of the islands' ecological resources. The shorelines of the islands contain important eelgrass beds, a juvenile chinook migratory corridor and the largest herring spawning grounds in Central Puget Sound. Salmon recovery depends upon preservation of such valuable resources.

We hope the CLC will be successful in its efforts to leverage private and public resources to create a lasting aquatic conservancy legacy.

Sincerely,

Bradford J. Axel  
Conservation Committee Chair  
Cascade Chapter



May 6, 2002

Congressman Jim McDermott  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McDermott:

I am writing to express People For Puget Sound's strong support for the Maury Island Conservation Initiative. The nearshore habitats of Vashon and Maury Islands are ecologically very important, and need to be protected. We would note particularly that Maury Island's eelgrass beds provide shelter for Chinook salmon, and that the islands' shorelines contain the largest herring spawning grounds in Central Puget Sound. The significance of these shorelines was recognized when the State of Washington established the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve.

We hope that the Cascade Land Conservancy will be successful in its efforts to leverage private and public resources to create a lasting aquatic conservancy legacy. Thank you very much for your work on this project.

Sincerely,



Kathy Fletcher  
Executive Director



911 Western Ave.

Suite 580

Seattle, WA

98104

(206) 382-7007

Fax 382-7006

[www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org)





February 25, 2002

Mr. Gene Duvernoy, President  
Cascade Land Conservancy  
615 Second Avenue, Suite 626  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Maury Island Conservation Initiative

Dear Mr. Duvernoy,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) in regard to the Maury Island Conservation Initiative to express our support for Cascade Land Conservancy's efforts to ensure long-term conservation of Maury Island's ecological resources.

WEC recognizes the significant ecological functions provided by both the upland and aquatic habitats associated with Maury Island.

For example, we are aware that the WRIA 9 watershed planning process identified the Maury/Vashon near shore habitat as critical for preserving connectivity of eel grass beds for salmon migration, including ESA listed Chinook salmon; that these eel grass beds are also critical spawning habitat for the Quartermaster Harbor herring stock; the largest spawning population in southern Puget Sound and the third largest in the entire Puget Sound region.

The ecological significance of the aquatic habitat associated with Maury Island was recognized from a statewide perspective by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources when it designated certain state-owned aquatic lands surrounding the Island as the "Maury Island Aquatic Reserve".

Conservation of Maury Island upland areas will not only serve to protect and maintain vital aquatic habitat, but also will protect valuable upland habitats, including the highest density and largest stands of madrone in the state and associated "Priority Habitats" and "habitats of local importance" recognized by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and King County respectively.

It is our hope that the Cascade Land Conservancy and its partners will be successful in leveraging private and public resources to create a Maury Island conservation legacy for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Joan Crooks*  
Joan Crooks  
Executive Director

OLYMPIA

(360) 357-6548

SEATTLE

615 Second Avenue, Suite 380, Seattle, WA 98104-2245

SPOKANE

(509) 747-3663

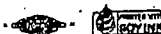
wec@wecprotects.org

(206) 622-8103

FAX (206) 622-8113

www.wecprotects.org

North Central Washington  
Audubon Society  
Northwest Energy Coalition  
Northwest Fly Anglers  
Okanogan Highlands Alliance  
Olympic Environmental Council  
Olympic Park Associates  
Olympic Peninsula Audubon  
Society  
Pacific Biodiversity Institute  
Palouse Clearwater Environment  
Institute  
Pend O'Reille Environmental Tea  
Point Roberts Heron Preservativ  
Committee  
PRO - Salmon  
Protect the Peninsula's Future  
Ptarmigans  
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance  
Republicans for Environmental  
Protection  
RIDGE  
Rivers Council of Washington  
Save A Valuable Environment  
Save Lake Sammamish  
Save Our Summers  
Seattle Audubon Society  
Seattle Citizens for Quality Livin  
Skagit Audubon Society  
South Sound Fly Fishers  
Spokane Audubon Society  
Student Action for the  
Environment  
Surfrider Foundation -  
Washington Chapter  
Tahoma Audubon Society  
The Lands Council  
Transportation Choices Coalition  
Vancouver Audubon Society  
Washington Fly Fishing Club  
Washington Native Plant Societ  
Washington Ski-Touring Club  
Washington Trollers Association  
Waste Action Project  
WEAVE  
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers  
Whidbey Environmental Action  
Network  
Wilderness Society  
Yakima Valley Audubon Society







VASHON  
MAURY  
ISLAND  
LAND  
TRUST

Conserving land to protect the natural ecosystems and rural character of Vashon-Maury Island

May 1, 2002

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

Steve Abel  
*President*

Billy Plauché  
*Vice President*

Merrilee Runyan  
*Secretary*

Donna Klemka  
*Treasurer*

Tom Dean  
*Past President*

Priscilla Beard

Maurine Barnett

Amy Carey

Gary Christophersen

James Dam

Jim Garrison

Jane Neubauer

STAFF

Julie Burman  
*Executive Director*

Pam Purdy  
*Office Administrator*

Gene Duvernoy, President  
Cascade Land Conservancy  
615 Second Avenue, Suite 525  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Maury Island Conservation Initiative

Dear Gene,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am writing to express support for the Maury Island Conservation Initiative.

The Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust is pleased to join the Cascade Land Conservancy in a collaborative partnership to conserve important land on our special island. In addition to formal Board endorsement of the project many of our members have also let us know of their strong desire to protect the property.

The property under consideration on the east shore of Maury Island is unique for its ecological value as well as its recreational attributes.

As a land trust dedicated to conserving important ecosystems, we believe the unarmored shoreline, the wetlands on the upper section of the property, and the madrone forest certainly merit protection. At the same time, there is also an opportunity to create valuable open space for a variety of recreational activities on the site.

The Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust is very appreciative of your support and leadership as we move forward with the Maury Island Conservation Initiative.

We look forward to a successful effort to create a lasting legacy for our community.

Sincerely,

Julie Burman  
Executive Director



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
11th DISTRICT  
EILEEN CODY, R.N.

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives

HEALTH CARE  
CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS

May 13, 2002



The Honorable Jim McDermott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

RE: Maury Island Conservation Initiative

Dear Congressman McDermott,

Thank you for taking a leadership role in securing federal funding for the Maury Island Conservation Initiative. I am writing to let you know that I also fully support the Maury Island Conservation Initiative and am making the project my top environmental priority in the upcoming legislative session.

As you know, the initiative seeks to protect both keystone parcels and natural linkages to other large natural areas on-island. With one of the largest remaining madrone forests, an important island aquifer, rearing habitat for salmon, spawning grounds for herring, a wide array of birds, abundant trails and a rich diving reef: the 275-acre parcel proposed for gravel mining presents the immediate challenge.

I applaud the systematic, landscape-scale strategy that Cascade Land Conservancy has introduced to this challenging opportunity. The broad coalition of volunteers, nonprofit groups, elected officials, and government agencies demonstrates what a regionally significant opportunity the Maury Island Conservation Initiative presents. This is truly a community initiative. With such broad support their ambitious undertaking is visionary and do-able.

The shorelines of Maury Island are a true gem, and should be preserved as valuable ecological and recreational resources for our community. By working collaboratively at the state, federal and local level, we can preserve a major natural and ecological resource for many generations to come.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and support on behalf of citizens in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Sincerely,

EILEEN CODY, R.N.  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: Sen. Patty Murray  
Sen. Maria Cantwell  
Cong. Norm Dicks  
Cong. Jay Inslee  
Cong. Rick Larsen  
Cong. Adam Smith  
Cong. Brian Baird  
King County Executive Ron Sims  
King County Councilmember Dow Constantine

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: JOHN L. O'BRIEN BUILDING, PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7978  
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993  
E-MAIL: cody\_cl@leg.wa.gov  
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER