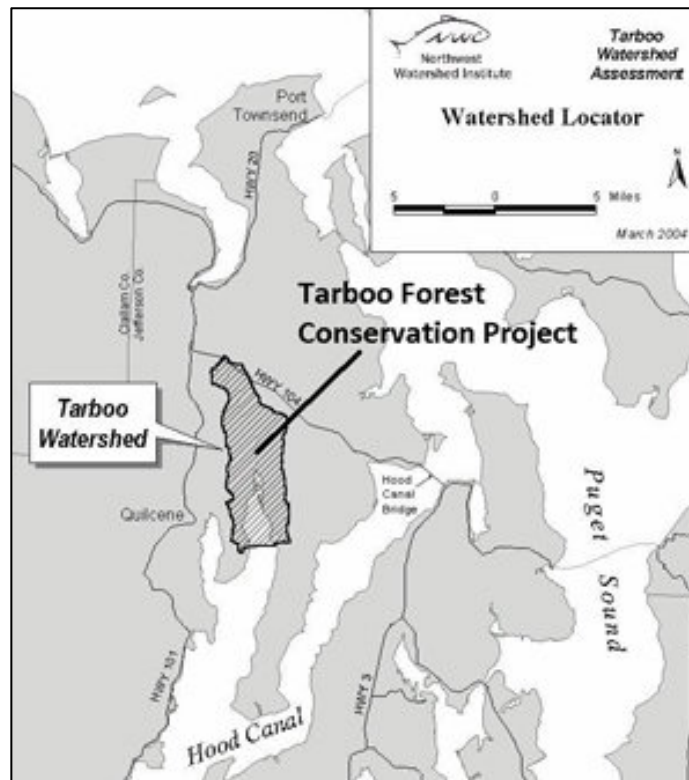


The Leader

Donations needed for Tarboo preservation

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The Northwest Watershed Institute's forest conservation project is located in eastern Jefferson County in the middle of the Tarboo watershed. Submitted image

Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI) purchased 80 acres of forestland near Quilcene on Sept. 15, but needs financial help to permanently secure the land.

The 80-acre parcel was purchased as part of a joint conservation effort with Jefferson Land Trust and Leopold-Freeman Forests LLC to protect a

total of 240 acres. The land was sold by a Danish investment company that had planned to clear-cut the property and sell it for development. The forest is adjacent to the 316-acre Tarboo Wildlife Preserve, located northeast of Quilcene.

Peter Bahls, director of NWI, said the purchase would not have been possible without loans from conservation investors. “Some generous individuals stepped forward in the nick of time who were willing to provide low- and no-interest loans towards the \$550,000 purchase.”

NWI is now looking for funding to pay off the loans to allow for permanent protection of the property.

“The purchase buys us time, but it doesn’t guarantee protection. NWI needs to raise the funds over the next several years to pay off the loans and allow transfer of a conservation easement to the Jefferson Land Trust,” Bahls said.

Once conservation loans are repaid, the 80-acre forest parcel can be added to the Tarboo Wildlife Preserve. Leopold-Freeman Forests LLC has agreed to donate a conservation easement to the Jefferson Land Trust that would permanently protect its adjoining 160 acres, which are currently owned by the Scott and Susan Freeman family.

Potential donors can contact Bahls at 385-6786 or peter@nwwatershed.org.