

## Lopez Rocks—Preserve Lopez Shoreline

Please join the Lopez Island community in raising funds for the Land Bank's acquisition of the Lopez Shoreline Preserve. Your donation is tax deductible and will be fully refunded in case the acquisition is not completed.

Roughly two miles of nearly pristine beach on the west side of Lopez Island may become accessible for nature viewing and long walks. There is one spot where the high bluffs dip low along a streambed to allow a gentle walking path to the beach. Funding from the San Juan County Land Bank and donations from the Lopez Community can make this acquisition a reality.

Fronting the San Juan Channel, the shoreline with its wild and remote flavor is one of the longest publicly owned tidelands on our island. Currently only accessible by boat, the property provides for walkable trail access through an island forest to the sandy beach with panoramic views to our neighboring islands, views through Cattle Pass, to the Olympic mountains and north to Turtleback Mountain.

The Land Bank has secured a purchase and sale agreement on two parcels allowing community access to the beach. The Land Bank plans to complete this purchase agreement by January 20, 2017. The Land Bank Commission has committed funds toward the purchase of the properties and will seek grants from state programs to help offset some of that cost. At the same time, it will keep money in reserve for other identified acquisitions of critical properties on Lopez, including the remainder interest of Lopez Hill.

The Land Bank is asking the Lopez community to contribute \$50,000 to close the sale. The amount is also necessary for obtaining state grants by demonstrating the community's commitment. With the closing date rapidly approaching, community fundraising will begin immediately, with a milestone date of December 8, 2016 for pledges.

For more information:

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