



## Friends of Lopez Hill

# Lopez Hill Fact Sheet

*Autumn 2006*

- ✿ Includes the highest point on Lopez Island = 535 feet
- ✿ 400 acres = 2% of Lopez Island
- ✿ Highest rainfall on Lopez and key watershed recharge area for the island
- ✿ Managed since 1957 by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as Common School Trust Land
- ✿ Largest remaining DNR parcel in San Juan County

## The Friends of Lopez Hill (FOLH)

- ◆ FOLH formed in April of 2006 to represent the concerned citizens of Lopez Island who wish to preserve public ownership and access to Lopez Hill
- ◆ FOLH has developed significant public awareness of Lopez Hill through local media outreach, presence at the Lopez Farmer's Market, and by publication and distribution of a map of the Hill's trail system
- ◆ FOLH has been recognized by community leaders as instrumental in emphasizing the importance of Lopez Hill to state officials and legislative representatives

## History (pre-1957)

- ◆ Native American influences: frequent fires changed vegetation
- ◆ Fourth of July picnics 1890s on then-named Lookout Point
- ◆ Used by settlers to graze livestock (remnant fences)
- ◆ Large Douglas Fir stumps evidence of significant old-growth forest. Settlers logged all of the Hill, but majority of the area has not been logged in at least 40 or 50 years

## History (post-1957)

- ◆ 1984 San Juan Islands Trust Lands Management Plan:
  - 1986—Recommended alternative: Forest Management with a Multiple Use Management Plan. Public uses should be limited by minimal site development.
  - 1986—Proposed action schedule: Approve Multiple Use Management Plan; timber sale of 190-acre tree harvest
  - 2001—Status/recommended action: Multiple Use classification. DNR is seeking to transfer/trade to another public ownership.
- ◆ June 2006—Public Lands Commissioner Sutherland gives San Juan County 3-4 years to find community solution & pledges to work with the County to find these solutions