



**Pope Resources**  
*A Limited Partnership*



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 25, 2006

### **NISQUALLY LAND TRUST AND POPE RESOURCES ANNOUNCE SALE OF FORESTLAND NEAR MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**

The Nisqually Land Trust announced today that it has acquired 404 acres of timberlands outside Ashford, Washington, near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. The Land Trust purchased the land from Pope Resources (Nasdaq: POPEZ) for \$1.4 million with a federal land acquisition grant through the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is the largest deal in the Land Trust's 17-year history and will permanently protect habitat for spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and bald eagles, all of which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

As part of the multi-party transaction, DNR will hold a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity, ensuring its use as habitat and preventing future development. In a separate transaction, DNR will also transfer into permanent conservation status an additional 406 acres of spotted-owl habitat within Tahoma State Forest, which it will manage as a Natural Resources Conservation Area.

The Land Trust's purchase completes the first phase of its Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative, which calls for permanently protecting some 4,500 acres of timberlands between the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Elbe Hills and Tahoma state forests. The Initiative's goal is to

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protect critical habitat around Mount Rainier National Park while preserving local forestry and tourism jobs. “To protect habitat in perpetuity, you have to make it part of a sustainable system,” said Joe Kane, executive director of the Land Trust. “In the Ashford area, that system includes working forests, recreational opportunities, and a commitment to the long-term health of the community.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded the transaction with a grant from its Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. Winning the grant was the result of a partnership that included the Nisqually Land Trust, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Nisqually River Council, and the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition, an Ashford-based citizens’ group.

“The Nisqually watershed community is nationally recognized as a leader in cooperative conservation,” said David Troutt, chairman of the Nisqually River Council. “It’s extremely gratifying to see that ethic at work protecting a national treasure like Mount Rainier and the tremendous diversity of life that surrounds it, including the Nisqually River.”

“This transaction is a great example of a ‘win-win’ outcome for both conservation and industry interests,” said David L. Nunes, President and CEO of Pope Resources. “We have a responsibility to deliver economic returns to our investor owners, and in this case we were able to balance that objective with recognition of other important values, such as protection of wildlife habitat, view corridors, and water quality.”

In 2005 Pope Resources began the permit application process to harvest the mature timber on the property. Last fall, after meeting with representatives of the Nisqually River Council, the company agreed to delay the harvest and to sell the property to the Land Trust. The company has extended its deadlines several times to give the Land Trust time to raise money. “Pope Resources has been a full and very patient partner in this effort,” said Kane. “It had every right to walk away from this deal, and it didn’t. That says a lot about their commitment to arriving at a win-win solution.”

“We really appreciate Pope Resources for working so graciously with our community and allowing us the time to reach this perfect solution,” said Judith Scavone, a founder of the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition. “We are also grateful to the Land Trust and to Omroa Bhagwandin, of the state Department of Natural Resources, for stepping in at the eleventh hour and helping to put this deal together.”

“We are pleased that DNR can help to facilitate good land conservation projects such as the Ashford acquisition,” said Doug Sutherland, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands. “The benefits of protecting these areas go far beyond the local areas that surround them. These partnerships help in the support of healthy forests and our objectives of habitat protection.”

“Credit is also due the Nisqually River Council, for their ongoing work with our community and other landowners in the upper Nisqually Valley,” added Mary Foster, another Headwaters founder. “This is a very significant achievement and an important step toward balancing a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant economy.”

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### **About the Nisqually Land Trust**

The Nisqually Land Trust, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1989, is the lead nongovernmental conservation organization in the Nisqually River watershed. Its mission is to conserve natural areas and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed and to protect those lands in perpetuity. It purchases title, easements, and other property rights from willing sellers and then manages its lands to maximize their conservation values. For more information, contact the Land Trust at (360) 458-1111 or visit the Land Trust website at [www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org).

### **About Pope Resources**

Pope Resources, a publicly traded limited partnership, and its subsidiaries Olympic Resource Management and Olympic Property Group, own or manage over 400,000 acres of timberland and development property in Washington and Oregon. In addition, Pope Resources provides forestry consulting and timberland management services to third-party owners and managers of timberland in Washington, Oregon, and California. Olympic Resource Management is a member of the American Forest and Paper Association and subscribes to the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®. The company and its predecessor companies have owned and managed timberlands and development properties for more than 150 years. Additional information on the company can be found at [www.orm.com](http://www.orm.com). The contents of our website are not incorporated into this release or into our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### **About the Nisqually River Council**

The Nisqually River Council is comprised of 17 federal, state, county, and local agencies, the Nisqually Tribe, local businesses, and interested citizens. They have been working together since 1987 as a coordinating council for Nisqually Watershed issues. Recently the Council approved its Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan, which puts environmental, economic, and community sustainability at the heart of the Council's mission. The Council is committed to the protection and enhancement of the Nisqually River watershed through education, advocacy, and coordination. More information can be found at [www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org).

### **About the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition**

The Nisqually Headwaters Coalition, a grassroots group of Upper Nisqually Valley residents, strives to conserve and protect key forested hillsides and open spaces for the benefit of the environment, the community and the local economy. The Coalition values individual property rights and has pledged to compensate landowners at fair market value for any land which is nominated for preservation. More information can be found at [www.nisquallyheadwaters.org](http://www.nisquallyheadwaters.org).

### **About the Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages about 5 million acres of state-owned trust forest, agricultural, aquatic (submerged) and range lands, and commercial properties that earn income to build schools, universities and other state institutions and help fund local services in many counties. In addition to earning income, trust lands are habitat for native plant and animal species. They also protect clean and abundant water and offer public recreation and education opportunities statewide. DNR also manages state Natural Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves, which protect unique and threatened native ecosystems and offer educational and research opportunities.

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## **About the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. The Fund provides grants to states and territories to support their participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for listed species, as well as for species that are either proposed or candidates for listing. Section 6 grants provide a means for states to work with private landowners, communities, and tribes to protect vital endangered-species habitat. More information can be found at [www.fws.gov/conservation/grants/](http://www.fws.gov/conservation/grants/).

Photos are available on DNR's website:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/adm/comm/2006\\_news\\_releases/nr06\\_107photo1.jpg](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/adm/comm/2006_news_releases/nr06_107photo1.jpg)

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/adm/comm/2006\\_news\\_releases/nr06\\_107photo2.jpg](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/adm/comm/2006_news_releases/nr06_107photo2.jpg)

## **Photo captions**

***Photo of child:** Sofia Kane, 10, at the gate to the 404 acres of timberlands the Nisqually Land Trust recently purchased from Pope Resources. Located near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, it is the largest purchase in the Land Trust's history and will permanently protect habitat for threatened species, including spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and bald eagles.*

***Landscape photo:** The Nisqually Land Trust recently purchased this forested ridge from Pope Resources. Located near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, it is the largest purchase in the Land Trust's history and will permanently protect habitat for threatened species, including spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and bald eagles.*