

## Examples of Snohomish County Steward Projects

### **SALMON AND PLANTS FOR KIDS PROGRAM**

#### **Background Information**

The Salmon and Plants for Kids Program uses a series of three fieldtrips and in-class presentations to teach students (and some parents) the value of healthy riparian zones (streambanks) and how to help restore them. Students in the program begin the year by planting native plants at a riparian restoration site. Restoration sites are adjacent to salmon streams and, when possible, are in the students' watershed. The 2nd fieldtrip, held in late January or February, are designed to assist Surface Water Management's Native Plant Salvage program. The fieldtrips can be a native plant salvage, live stake cutting/potting, bare root potting, or other fieldtrip that introduces students to the need to preserve and protect native plants and riparian areas. The students' third field trip, held in late May or early June, is a return to the restoration site they planted in the previous fall. On this fieldtrip students identify, monitor and map their plants. This information is added to Surface Water Management's restoration site database. Throughout the year staff from Surface Water Management's Watershed education program provide classroom lessons on a variety of topics chosen by the classroom teacher.

*Source: [http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public\\_Works/Divisions/SWM/Work\\_Areas/Outreach/Education/Salmonandplants.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public_Works/Divisions/SWM/Work_Areas/Outreach/Education/Salmonandplants.htm)*

#### **Volunteer Duties**

Classrooms will be divided into groups of five or six students. Volunteers are needed to lead these small groups of students as they plant trees and shrubs, salvage native plants, or monitor their plant. Volunteers will also help with distributing tools and materials. These events are some of the most rewarding volunteer projects that you can find. Both the students and volunteers have a great time as they learn about

restoration! There is also potential for stewards to participate in the classroom education prior to the events.

### **WETLAND SILVICULTURE Snohomish River Estuary**

#### **Background**

Come join us in this fun and exciting ongoing study. Volunteers are needed to collect the tree cores from conifers growing in the Snohomish River estuary as well as tree height and diameter and soil samples in which the tree is growing. These data are part of a tri-county research study to determine the degree of tree growth stunting that occurs in the wetland soils, and will eventually lead to the development of tree growth tables based on wetland soil hydrology. Such tree growth tables exist, but these are based only on tree growth in upland soils. The tree age data also is important for determining site conditions prior to diking. As dikes are removed, Snohomish County needs a good model for estuary plant growth.

#### **Volunteer Duties & Logistical Issues**

Volunteers will learn a variety of field techniques including tree coring, core prep, ring analysis, wetland soil description, etc. The project will require at least one day of technical training. Many of the sites will need to be accessed by boat, although some can be entered by foot – just physically accessing the trees will take up a considerable amount of time in this project. It would be best to start during the winter/early spring in order to reduce the amount of bushwhacking to access trees. Groups of 4 to 6 volunteers would embark for about 6 hours per day (4 hours of work, 2 hours of travel time). Boats can be personal watercraft, or they can be provided by Snohomish County. This project will require a considerable amount of scheduling and coordination.

**KAYAK POINT PARK  
15610 Marine Drive  
Stanwood, WA**

**Background**

This beautiful nearshore restoration site is composed of a 100 meter stretch of county beach on the Puget Sound. The plantings (planted 2003 and 2004) are divided into small zones within this stretch. Driftwood was placed around planting zones to delineate beds and dissuade pedestrians. Challenges of the site include exposure of plants to wave and weather patterns and high intensity human use of the beach. You can find out more about Kayak Point's history at

[http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks/Information/Park\\_Directory/Regional\\_Parks/Kayak\\_Point.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks/Information/Park_Directory/Regional_Parks/Kayak_Point.htm)

**Needs**

Ideally this site (or zones within the site) would be adopted by a steward (or stewards) long term. The steward(s) would be responsible for regular visits to the planting zones. They would perform initial assessments and conduct maintenance or monitoring with the assistance of other volunteers. Maintenance duties would include mild weeding, sign replacement, mulching, beach wood supplementation, etc.

**PICNIC POINT BEACH PARK  
IVY OUT!  
12001 Picnic Point Road  
Mukilteo, WA**

**Background**

This project offers an opportunity for Native Plant Stewards to work with community volunteers and neighbors to enhance one of our unique marine treasures. Located on the shore of Puget Sound, Picnic Point beach is one of just a few remnant marine riparian areas in south Snohomish County and it includes a "pocket estuary", which is important for salmon. English Ivy has taken over an area along the beach and is out-competing the native vegetation that would typically create shade and habitat.

**Needs**

Stewards can help to organize and participate in neighborhood ivy removal events. Snohomish County would help by

providing tools and other general support for such events. Several of these events were held during 2005, leading to great improvement of the site. We want to continue this process and encourage volunteers and neighbors to keep up with English Ivy control.

**TWIN RIVERS  
13823 Old Tester Rd.  
Monroe, WA 98272**

**Background**

This riparian restoration site is bordered by the Snohomish River, just downstream of the confluence of the Snoqualmie and Skykomish Rivers. A channel will be excavated through the site in order to reconnect the Snohomish River to the side channel. This will provide much-needed salmon rearing habitat. Plantings will occur on this large site during the Fall and Spring of 2006 and 2007. In all, 5.5 acres of upland will be planted, and 5 acres of wetland will be planted.

**Needs**

Tens of thousands of plants will need to go into the ground on this site. Stewards can help with volunteer planting projects, and are welcome to start their own planting events. (Monitoring and maintenance needs will be taken care of by other groups for at least the next 2 years.)

**SILVER CREEK AND GOLDIE CREEK  
LEVEL 1 MONITORING**

**Background Information**

There are sites along Silver Creek and Goldie Creek that need basic monitoring to determine their maintenance needs. This is a great way for stewards to gain familiarity with projects in the area. After performing assessments, stewards may want to consider adopting a site that they are particularly fond of.

**Volunteer Duties**

We need sets of 2 volunteers to drive to different sites within the watershed and perform a basic assessment of the native plant vitality, the presence of invasive weeds, and the site's general maintenance needs. Using this information, the volunteers will develop a maintenance plan for each site. Volunteers can complete the

monitoring on their own schedule, and at their own pace.

**EBEY ISLAND SPRUCE MONITORING**  
**End of 61st Ave. SE**  
**Everett, WA**

**Background**

This is a large (~5-10 acres) riparian restoration site on Ebey Island. In 1998, just over 3000 Sitka Spruce saplings were planted in the uplands of this estuary wetlands preserve. Due to several issues affecting the planting (improper planting by volunteers, poor control of Reed Canary Grass, etc.) the planting had a very high mortality rate.

**Needs**

There are several hundred Sitka Spruce remaining on the county site must be monitored every few years. The monitoring can occur at any time of the year, and should be performed at some time in 2006. The last data set was collected in 2003, it took 3 people 3 days, at about 5 hours per day. This time can be split among Stewards as they please. Stewards can also assist with the data entry if they wish.

**FIELDS RIFFLE SITE**  
**82nd Ave. SE**  
**Snohomish, WA**

**Background**

This is a 5 acre riparian restoration site along 2,000 ft of the Snohomish River. The property was acquired by Snohomish County Parks in 1999 to protect a unique wetland feature and provide public fishing access. The project goal is to enhance riparian and aquatic edge habitat quality at Field's Riffle for the purpose of increasing rearing capacity and survival for juvenile Chinook and other salmonids. The site will be planted in separate sections over 2006 and 2007.

**Needs**

The planting of this site began in November of 2005. Stewards can assist with planting or assist with facilitation of planting parties. The site will also have monitoring and maintenance needs.

**THOMAS' EDDY COUNTY PARK**  
**BOB HEIRMAN WILDLIFE PRESERVE**  
**14913 Connelly Snohomish, WA 98290**  
**Background**

Thomas' Eddy County Park restoration site is part of the Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve. A portion of this beautiful park was planted in order to shade out Reed Canary Grass. These 2001 tree plantings are tagged, and need to be monitored in 2006. Learn more about the Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve at:

[http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks/Information/Park\\_Directory/Regional\\_Parks/Heirman\\_Preserve.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Parks/Information/Park_Directory/Regional_Parks/Heirman_Preserve.htm)

**Needs**

The major need for this site to monitor the tree viability/growth from a 2001 planting. This is a large site and would be best monitored in pairs or small groups.

**NORTH MEANDER RECONNECTION**  
**PROJECT**  
**Silvana, WA**

**Background**

The North Meander Stream Reconnection Project is an extremely large, ongoing Snohomish County project. It will continue to benefit from volunteer work for several years. The meander had been cut off from the main stream channel in the past in order to straighten the stream passage. Stream meanders are very important for good salmon habitat. The North Meander project will reconnect the meander to the stream by excavating soil from the base of the meander, and breaching the dikes in the area. The dredged soil has been added to a field next to the meander, and will be used as a native plant tree farm for SWM's Native Plant Program.

**Needs**

The North Meander project will have many needs as the project progresses. Extensive planting will occur on the stream edges and in the nearby field. Maintenance requirements, such as invasive weed control, will need to be addressed. The site is also an excellent source for livestock harvesting.

**FRIENDS OF FORGOTTEN CREEK**  
**On Bond St., SW of intersection with**  
**Wall St.**  
**Everett, WA**

**Background**

The Forgotten Creek Enhancement Project is a community effort to provide access through and restore 3 acres of city-owned land near downtown Everett. Cleanup and invasive plant removal began in early 2002. Replanting with native species started later that year. Following a community design process, trail access began in 2004. All of these activities are ongoing.

**Needs**

Stewards can help work with a variety of partners to find creative solutions to project needs such as planting, monitoring, photography, historical and ecological interpretation, trail building, neighbor involvement, fund raising, etc.

**Interested?**

Contact: Bob Jackson  
Friends of Forgotten Creek  
717-33rd St.  
Everett, WA 98201  
bjacksonjmurphy@aol.com  
Special

**ROBE VALLEY BANK STABILIZATION**  
**PROJECT**

**Rivershore Lane, off of Mountain Loop**  
**Highway**  
**Robe, WA**

**Background**

After several homes on the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River were wiped out due to bank erosion, the Robe Valley bank stabilization project was begun. Large rocks and large woody debris were installed on the stream edge (about 900 linear feet), and the bank was reinforced with tens of thousands of 10 foot livestakes.

**Needs**

The site will need additional livestaking, and volunteers can work to collect these stakes at a nearby harvest location. The site will also be heavily planted, requiring much volunteer support. Since it is somewhat remote, this site would be particularly suited to someone who lives in the area.

**NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION**  
**GARDENS**  
**Snohomish County**

**Background**

Native plant demonstration gardens are a great way for kids and adults to learn about the beauty and benefits of our native flora. Snohomish County receives many requests each year for assistance with demonstration gardens. Also consider planting a demonstration garden at a local park or church in Snohomish County. Or help a teacher develop a native plant garden and integrate native plant education into their science curriculum. How about a native garden on the new Snohomish County Everett campus? It could happen.

**Volunteer Duties**

Stewards can get involved in a native plant demo garden project in a number of ways. There are groups and individuals already working on projects who may need your help. Stewards can be proactive and work to get their own grant money/location to build a garden.

We also need someone to create a list of all the existing demo gardens in the county, and perform basic monitoring to check on their condition. This will be valuable information in determining the success/value of this type of project.

**Details**

If

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY NATIVE PLANT**  
**NURSERY**

**131 – 132nd Ave.**  
**Lake Stevens, WA**

**Background Information**

The Snohomish County Native Plant Nursery, located in Lake Stevens, serves as a holding facility for plants used by the County for restoration sites. We have approximately 80 species of plants commonly used in riparian (streamside) restoration projects and hold about 35,000 individual plants. Most of the plant stock consists of "bareroot" plants bought wholesale from local nurseries that need to be potted in the winter by volunteers. A portion of our stock also consists of "salvaged" plants removed from

development sites before the bulldozers arrive.

### **Volunteer Duties**

There is always more work to be done at the nursery. Projects include:

- Weeding
- Potting up of root bound plants
- Inventory control
- Site improvements and maintenance
- Bare root stock potting (winter)
- Harvest and potting of cuttings and livestock material
- Propagation of wetland sod matting
- Future: Lowering capillary bed height

### **NATIVE GROWTH PROTECTION AREA STUDY**

#### **Document, Map, and Characterize NGPA's**

This is a multi-dimensional Snohomish County project. Phase One has started this year (2005) with a large grant to find and map all the Native Plant Growth Protection Areas (NPGAs) and homeowner associations in the North Creek Watershed. Phase Two is to develop a consistent method to analyze the health of each NGPA and do baseline, simple monitoring. Phase Three is to determine what needs to be done in each NGPA to increase its health and natural functions, and then write a long term management plan for each NGPA. You'll be working with County staff and NGPA neighbors. Stewards are also needed to act as a liaison to Snohomish County's Planning & Development Services (PDS) biologists who are working with private landowners to develop sensible planting plans as mitigation or to establish Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA's) in new developments.

#### **Develop a NGPA Informational Booklet**

Stewards can also work on a project to develop and design an NGPA booklet (with SWM) for adjoining landowners and homeowner associations to help answer those nagging questions, like: What is an NGPA?, Why is it there?, What can I do with it?, What can't I do?, How do we take care of it?, etc.

### **LIVELY INTERPRETIVE GUIDE For the Lively Environmental Center Mill Creek**

#### **Background**

The Lively Interpretive Center is a 22-acre environmental center that includes both nature trails and classrooms. This facility is primarily used as a field trip destination for elementary school age students from the Everett School District, but is also used for other groups. The Lively Interpretive Guide is designed as an educational tool for students and other visitors at the center. However, it was last edited over a decade ago, and is in great need up updates and revisions.

#### **Volunteer Duties**

Give the Lively Interpretive Guide a fresh interpretation with updated trail descriptions, plant identification stations, etc. The book may need to be completely retyped and converted to digital format.