

## Summary of Pierce County Area Stewardship Tools: Programs and People

### Conservation Tools

**Current Use Taxation Programs:** These programs provide incentives that help landowners voluntarily conserve open space lands and/or manage for timber or agricultural resources. Tax deductions are available for landowners who implement forest stewardship plans. Landowners can also receive property tax reductions for preserving resources such as stream banks, wetlands, or wildlife habitat. Contact **Mike Erkkinen** (253-798-2705), [merkkin@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:merkkin@co.pierce.wa.us), or **Chad Williams** (253-798-3683), [cwillia@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:cwillia@co.pierce.wa.us) of Pierce County's Department of Planning and Land Services for information on current use taxation programs. Applications for these programs can be downloaded from the Assessors office at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/at/forms.htm>.

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Stream Bank Restoration:** The Pierce Conservation District provides an opportunity for landowners to receive payments for enrolling their streamside land under 10 or 15-year federal contracts. Up to 100 percent cost sharing is also available for tree and shrub planting. For more information contact Pierce Conservation District, 253-845-9770.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** and the Pierce Conservation District also offer several additional stewardship programs. Under the Wetland Reserve program landowners can place eligible lands in a permanent or 30-year easement and receive financial compensation. Restoration cost-share agreements that pay up to 75 % of costs are also available. A **Farm and Ranchland Protection Program** offers a similar easement purchase program. Two Wildlife Habitat and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs also offer technical and financial assistance to landowners. Another **Conservation Security Program** provides payments to farmers who implement conservation measures. The Conservation Security program is being initiated in selected watersheds across the United States, including the Nisqually River watershed. Contact the Conservation District, 253-845-9770, or **Paul Rogers** of NRCS, 253-845-9272, ext. 107, for more information on these programs.

**Land Trust Tools:** Land trusts are non-profit groups that can accept land with exceptional habitat value through donations or sales. Land trusts facilitate conservation easements, which can be used by landowners who want to permanently preserve the natural character of their land but maintain ownership, and qualify for local and federal tax deductions. The Cascade Land Conservancy works in the mid-Puget Sound area. Contact **Ryan Dicks**, the Conservancy's Pierce County Conservation Director at 253-350-1560, [ryand@cascadeland.org](mailto:ryand@cascadeland.org), or see <http://www.cascadeland.org>. The Great Peninsula Land Trust works in the Peninsula area of Pierce County and in Mason and Kitsap Counties. Contact **Ann Haines**, Executive Director, Great Peninsula Conservancy, at (360) 373-3500, (866) 373-3504 toll-free, or [info@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:info@greatpeninsula.org). The Nisqually Land Trust is working to protect the Nisqually River Basin which encompasses parts of Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. Contact the Nisqually Land Trust at 360-458-1111, or [Staff@NisquallyLandTrust.org](mailto:Staff@NisquallyLandTrust.org), or see <http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org>.

### Forestry Tools

**Forest Stewardship Planning:** Education opportunity for owners of private forestlands. Learn how you can get "coached" assistance from natural resource professionals as you author your own forest stewardship plan. Plans address forest health, silviculture alternatives, and water and wildlife resource management. Contact **Arno Bergstrom**, Washington State University Extension Forest Stewardship Educator, 360-337-7225, or [awbergstrom@wsu.edu](mailto:awbergstrom@wsu.edu).

More on other side

**Forest Stewardship Program:** Learn how you can improve the health and production of your forest for timber, wildlife, and other natural resources while taking a walk in the woods with a forester or wildlife biologist. This free consultation is customized to fit your objectives and the condition of your forest. A related forest land enhancement program may have cost-share available (up to 75%) to help landowners develop a forest management plan, improve forest productivity, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. For more information contact **Mike Nystrom**, Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Coordinator, (360) 825-1631 or [mike.nystrom@wadnr.gov](mailto:mike.nystrom@wadnr.gov).

**Small Forest Landowner Office, Washington Department of Natural Resources,** Offers programs that (1) help landowners with forest practice applications and negotiating thru the rules, (2) assist with replacing fish barriers on forest land (**Family Forest Fish Passage Program**), and (3) offer partial compensation for timber which landowners cannot harvest under new forest practice rules (**Forestry Riparian Easement Program**). Contact **Rick Kuykendall** at 360-767-7002 or [rick.kuykendall@wadnr.gov](mailto:rick.kuykendall@wadnr.gov) or see [www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo).

**Washington State Tree Farm Program:** Learn how you can qualify to have your property enrolled as a certified tree farm. Contact **Duane Weston** at 360-435-4063 or [DuaneWeston@cs.com](mailto:DuaneWeston@cs.com).

#### **Other Stewardship Tools to consider:**

**Nisqually Stream Stewards:** A group coordinated by the Nisqually Indian Tribe that works to educate and involve people in the Nisqually watershed about conservation and stewardship of their properties and local streams. The tribe provides technical assistance to private landowners in the Nisqually River watershed that are interested in doing specific stewardship projects on their properties and can help connect them with the necessary resources to get projects implemented. Contact Jeanette Dorner, Salmon Recovery Program Manager, Nisqually Indian Tribe, 360 438-8687 x2135, [jdorner@nwifc.org](mailto:jdorner@nwifc.org).

**Landowner Incentive Program, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife:** A competitive grant process to provide financial assistance to private landowner for the protection, enhancement, or restoration of habitat to benefit “species-at-risk” on privately owned lands. Typically up to \$50,000 of grant assistance, or smaller grants of up to \$3,000. A 25% nonfederal contribution is required, which may include cash and/or in-kind (labor, machinery, materials) contribution. Contact **Jeff Skriletz** at 360-902-8313, **Ginna Correa** at 360-902-2478, or check their web page at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/lip>.

**The US Fish & Wildlife Service Private Stewardship Grants Program:** The Private Stewardship Program provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. For information see [http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private\\_stewardship/index.html](http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html).

**Fishery Enhancement:** The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) is a nonprofit organization committed to increasing salmon populations in the South Puget Sound Region through habitat restoration, and community education. This non-regulatory group works with interested landowners to replant native plants, replace culverts, rebuild habitat, and improve water quality. The group provides technical assistance, and possibly even funding and materials. Contact the SPSSEG at 360-412-0808 or <http://www.spsseg.org>.

**Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center:**

The CRP offers awards to non-profit organizations, community groups, and local agencies for the restoration of habitat to benefit marine fisheries, including anadromous fish on public or private land. Competitive projects will have (1) 1:1 non-federal match, which may include cash or in-kind contributions of labor, materials, or services, (2) assurance of long-term improvement of habitat and protection from development, (3) substantial community involvement, and (4) multi-species benefit for our nations living marine resources. Funding is distributed either through direct review by the Restoration Center or through a variety of mechanisms including partnerships with Fish America Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Earthcorps, or Ocean Trust. More information can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/> or contact **Paul Cereghino** at 206-526-4670 or [Paul.R.Cereghino@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.R.Cereghino@noaa.gov).

**Salmon Recovery:** Salmon Recovery lead entities are voluntary organizations under contract with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife that assist with salmon recovery strategies in their watershed areas. The lead entities are responsible for prioritizing regional projects that can receive Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds. The lead entity contact for the Puyallup and Clover-Chambers watersheds is Roy Huberd of Pierce County, 253- 798-6793 or [rhuberd@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:rhuberd@co.pierce.wa.us). The Nisqually Indian Tribe is the lead entity for salmon recovery work in the Nisqually watershed. Contact Jeanette Dorner at the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Natural Resources Department at 360-438-8687 ext2135 or [jdorner@nwifc.wa.gov](mailto:jdorner@nwifc.wa.gov). The Gig/Harbor Peninsula area is managed by Kitsap County; contact Monica Daniels at 360-337-4679 or [mdaniels@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:mdaniels@co.kitsap.wa.us).

The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)** is composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor and five state agency directors. The Board provides grant funds to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities. **Brian Abbott** is the SRFB contact for the Pierce County area (360-902-2638 or [briana@iac.wa.gov](mailto:briana@iac.wa.gov).)