



Nisqually River Notes

A Publication of the Nisqually River Council

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Nisqually Sustainable: Celebrating Local Businesses Which Protect Our Water

Go Green; Buy Local! The new Nisqually Sustainable program advises, assists, and recognizes Nisqually businesses who actively work to enhance and improve their resource use.

The program supports and encourages business owners to take a close look at water, energy, and waste issues related to their business practices. The Nisqually Sustainable program is voluntary and available to all locally-owned, legally operating businesses located within the Nisqually watershed.

Program membership benefits businesses by providing them with free technical support and advertising opportunities, as well as assistance becoming as sustainable as desired.

Watershed Festival Aligned With Returning Tides

More than 1,600 people joined together to celebrate the cultural and environmental diversity of the Nisqually watershed at the 20th Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival in September.

Kids of all ages enjoyed music and dancing, interesting and interactive displays, the ever-popular salmon bake, touring the Refuge's new educational center, fish painting, and a myriad of other exciting happenings - truly a community event.

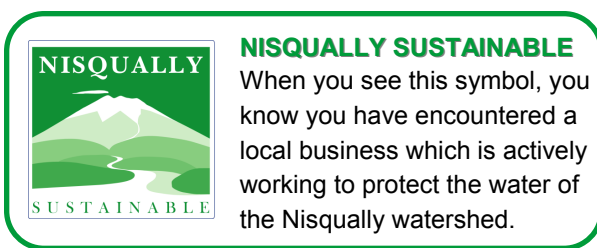
The Watershed Festival was held at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge the day after a major dike was breached and saltwater returned to the delta for the first time in over 100 years. The delta restoration project is one of several very exciting restoration projects underway in the watershed.

Mark your calendars now, and join us next year... the 2010 Nisqually Watershed Festival will be held on the last Saturday in September; September 25, 2010!

Participating businesses can proudly display and utilize the Nisqually Sustainable program logo at their business location, on products and packaging, and in advertising materials.

Consumers will know when they see the green Nisqually Sustainable logo that the business they are working with is taking definitive, active steps to increase their environmental awareness and reduce the ecological impacts of everyday activities.

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Nisqually River Council Updates

Nisqually Building Guide

We are now distributing the Builders Guide, which highlights green building and Low Impact Design (LID) techniques. If you want a copy and don't receive one in the Eatonville Dispatch or Nisqually Valley News, contact us.

Good Neighbor Handbook

The Nisqually Good Neighbor

Handbook, which is full of useful, local information and resources, will soon be available. If you'd like to receive a copy, let us know.

A Billion Dollar Watershed?!

An upcoming report on the value of natural systems and services within the Nisqually watershed indicates we live amongst significant natural assets. More details coming soon.

Electronic Newsletters Available

If you would prefer to receive Nisqually River Notes via email, let us know. Please be sure to include your name, email, and post address in your request.

Contact Nisqually River Council staff at info@nisquallyriver.org or 360.438.8715 for more info about any of these topics.

NISQUALLY RIVER COUNCIL

Working together to protect and
improve the ecologic and
economic viability of the
Nisqually Watershed.



Members:

Lewis County
Pierce County
Thurston County
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
WA Parks & Recreation Commission
WA Department of Natural Resources
Nisqually Indian Tribe
Citizens' Advisory Committees
WA Department of Ecology
WA Conservation Commission
UW Pack Forest
US Department of Defense, Fort Lewis
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
WA Department of Transportation
Mt. Rainier National Park
Tacoma Public Utilities
WA Secretary of State
WA Department of Agriculture
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Municipalities of Eatonville, Roy, & Yelm
Regional Conservation Districts
(Thurston, Pierce, Lewis)

Staff:

Sara Scott, Nisqually River Council
Sheila Wilson, Nisqually River
Education Project
Justin Hall, Nisqually River Foundation

Contact:

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Olympia, WA 98513
www.nisquallyriver.org



The Ohop Valley and Mt. Rainier.

Nisqually Land Trust

The Nisqually River Council extends gratitude to Connie Bond, Tim Tobin, and the Nisqually Land Trust for use of their beautiful photos.

Restoration Report: Ohop Valley

By Kimberlie Gridley

Construction of an 80 acre restoration project on a Nisqually Land Trust property culminates nearly a decade of planning and design.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe identified the Ohop Valley as a primary priority habitat for Chinook Salmon Recovery in their 2002 Chinook Recovery Plan. Since that time, plans have been underway to restore a 4 mile stretch of agricultural ditch, the current Ohop Creek, into a 6 mile meandering channel and wetland complex, resembling the pre-settlement Ohop Creek riparian corridor.

The first phase of this project, resulting in 1.2 miles of restored stream, has been in development for the past 2 years.

Project construction will continue

next summer, 2010, when the new channel is connected to the old channel and water begins to flow. Finally, the old ditched channel will be back-filled and replanted with native vegetation.

Goals of the project include building a meandering channel of historical elevation which will improve hydrologic connectivity within the floodplain, increasing channel and floodplain complexity through the addition of large woody debris (LWD) structures, and re-vegetation of 80 acres of valley floor with native wetland and riparian plant communities.

Currently, this project is fully funded, permitted, designed, and nearing completion of the first year of construction. This year RV associates dug over a mile of new channel and installed dozens of LWD structures.

We're On Facebook



If you become a fan of the Nisqually River Council on Facebook, you can receive regular updates, send us messages, find upcoming events, and enjoy our photos.

From the Facebook website, search for the Nisqually River Council, then click the 'become a fan' button.

*For additional information about
the Ohop Restoration Project,
contact South Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group at
360.412.0808 or
www.ohopcreek.org.*

**Nisqually Talks:
Sustainable Economy**

*Interest is growing in the
Buy Local movement.
Local business people are
invited to join a collaborative
effort to support and improve
the Nisqually region's economy.
360.438.8715*

*(Nisqually Sustainable,
continued from page 1)*

Green business practices can be attained in a wide range of industries and endeavors, including auto repair shops, printers, hotels, restaurants, landscaping, construction, janitorial and laundry services, nurseries, wineries, grocery and retail stores, offices, a variety of home-based business, and more.

Participating businesses will be assisted to:

- Monitor and record rates of water usage
- Develop a flow chart of water, waste, and energy resource inputs and outflows
- Set and achieve individual target goals which improve environmental practices or services.

Several local businesses have already enrolled and are leading the way. Look for the Nisqually Sustainable logo when you do business with Yelm Earthworm & Castings Farm, Rainier Mountaineering, and Sojak's Insurance in Roy.

Nisqually Sustainable is a collaborative project between the Nisqually River Foundation, Northwest Natural Resources Group, and the Nisqually Land Trust.

To learn more, or to join the program, contact us at 360.438.8715 or info@nisquallyriver.org.

Nisqually River Education Project Kicks Off the School Year at Tanwax Creek

By Sheila Wilson

Over 1,200 native trees and shrubs have been planted by the 275 students and more than 50 adult chaperones along Tanwax Creek.

In partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribes Salmon Recovery Program, students participated in this restoration project to improve habitat for salmon and other native wildlife.



Native plants provide the correct habitat for terrestrial and aquatic insects that salmon eat, shade for the stream in the summer, control erosion, and create oxygen. Eventually the plants provide large wood debris, diversifying the aquatic habitat and providing places for juveniles to rest, eat and hide from predators.

Good work, students!

New Staff: Sara Scott Joins the Team

The Nisqually River Council and Nisqually River Foundation are pleased to welcome Sara Carter Scott to the Nisqually network.



As an integral member of the council staff, she implements projects, coordinates meetings, and supports Council programs and Advisory Committees.

Sara is proud and grateful to call Cascadia and the Pacific Northwest home. She grew up in the beautiful Snoqualmie Valley, and worked previously with Thurston Conservation District and the Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Sara is delighted to be working with council staff, members, and partners to enhance and protect the Nisqually region. She agrees with Loren Eiseley, a noted anthropologist, philosopher, educator, and natural science writer, who wrote **"If there is magic in the world, it is contained in water."**

You can contact her at 360.438.8715 or sara@nisquallyriver.org.

2010 Meeting Dates and Locations

**The Nisqually River Council meets the third Friday of the month
at locations throughout the Nisqually watershed.**

January 15	YELM, Yelm School District Office
February 19	DELTA, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
March 20	COUNCIL RETREAT , Location to be announced
April 16	EATONVILLE, NW Trek
May 21	OHOP, Ohop Grange
June 18	DELTA, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
July 16	ASHFORD, Ashford Fires Station
August 20	DELTA, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
September 17	LONGMIRE, Mount Rainier National Park
October 15	EATONVILLE, Pack Forest
November 19	YELM, Yelm School District Office
December 17	DELTA, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge



Please check agenda or contact us to confirm time and location. Carpools possible.

We invite YOU to get involved in the Nisqually watershed!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday **December 5**, 9am-2pm
Salmon Watcher **Training**,
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday **December 19**,
10am-1pm, Salmon **Carcass**
Toss, *Eatonville*

Saturday **January 23**, 9am-2pm
Salmon Homecoming
Celebration, *Roy*

For more information, contact Don Perry, Salmon Recovery Program Outreach Coordinator, at dperry@nwifc.org or 360.438.8687 ext. 2143.

Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and usually take place the first Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm in Yelm. Contact 360.438.8715 or info@nisquallyriver.org for meeting location and information.

Community Forums provide informal opportunities for neighbors to come together and discuss issues important to them, to identify commonalities, and develop a shared vision for the future of their community.

To find out about existing community forums in the watershed, or for guidance on forming one in your area, contact Steve Pruitt at 360.832.7787 or ohopbob@rainierconnect.com.

Nisqually River Council meetings are open to the public and occur the third Friday of each month at various locations throughout the watershed. You are welcome to attend.

Seeking Advisory Committee Members - The Nisqually River Council is forming advisory committees in the areas of Environment, Economy, and Community. You are invited to contribute your ideas and expertise to the stewardship of the Nisqually Watershed through the Nisqually River Council.

Please contact 360.438.8715 or info@nisquallyriver.org for Council or Committee information.



Nisqually River Foundation
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