



Nisqually River Notes

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The Nisqually Community Forest

From the mountains to the sea, the Nisqually Watershed covers a vast amount of land filled with breathtaking views of the river and its tributaries, snow-capped peaks, diverse wildlife, and old growth forests. It's because of these forests that settlers from far and wide journeyed to Nisqually, and for many years, they were regionally owned. Today, however, the majority of the watershed's private timberlands, more than 100,000 acres, are owned by timber investment management organizations (TIMO's) based on the East Coast, which manage their timberlands for underlying investors around the world.

While ownership of Nisqually forests has grown more globalized, they continue to have an enormous impact on local concerns such as forestry jobs, the health of rivers and wildlife habitat, and the scenic vistas that support the tourism and recreation economy. A challenge Nisqually communities say they increasingly face is how best to integrate these local concerns with the realities of the global marketplace.

The goal of the Nisqually Community Forest Project is to address this challenge through market-based solutions, and to explore ways to re-create local ownership of Nisqually timberlands.

The Nisqually Land Trust began discussing possibilities of this project in 2008, and with a planning grant from the National Park Service in 2011 convened a group of local stakeholders for a series of conversations about what a Nisqually Community Forest might look like. How big might this project be? Who would own the land and manage the forest, and who would benefit? The group envisioned a forest of 20,000 to 30,000 acres designed to provide the watershed with forest products, recreation, education, job opportunities, and environmental benefits such as clean water and a place for wildlife to thrive.

The planning committee recently completed Phase I of the project, releasing a summary which outlines project background and history and overall vision and includes a timeline describing next steps and future goals. This information can be found by visiting the Community Forest's webpage at: nisquallycommunityforest.org.

Want to get involved in this project? Stay tuned for upcoming public meetings which will allow local residents to be involved in the development of this program. Questions can be directed to Joe Kane, Executive Director of the Nisqually Land Trust, at: jkane@nisquallylandtrust.org or Justin Hall, Executive Director of the Nisqually River Foundation, at: justin@nisquallyriver.org.



Welcome the Eatonville Salmon Fest!

There's a new event coming to town and everyone's invited! The Nisqually River Council, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and the Town of Eatonville are proud to announce a new festival that will take place in the upper watershed. Scheduled for Saturday, October 19th from 10am to 3pm at Mill Pond and Smallwood Parks, the Eatonville Salmon Fest will welcome a number of interactive and informational displays from local and partner organizations, food vendors, and musicians. There will also be educational tours and presentations showcasing the Town's endeavors towards sustainability and curbing the effects of stormwater run-off, including walking tours of Eatonville's raingarden and logjam installations, NatureMapping, and an underwater camera broadcasting spawning salmon (hopefully) in the Mashel River. Family-friendly activities, such as salmon print t-shirts and tree planting demonstrations will also be available.

Want more information or have interest in participating at this year's Eatonville Salmon Fest? Email Don Perry, Outreach Coordinator for the Nisqually Tribe, at perry.don@nisqually-nsn.gov.

**Want to receive the Nisqually River Notes digitally?
Send your email address to info@nisquallyriver.org!**

A Note From the Executive Director...

The Nisqually Good Neighbor Handbook is Coming!



By: Justin Hall



If you live in the Nisqually Watershed you will soon be receiving a copy of the Nisqually Good Neighbor Handbook. The Handbook is the result of a collaboration between the Nisqually River Council, the Nisqually Land Trust, and Stewardship Partners. It contains all sorts of useful information about living, working, and playing in the Nisqually Watershed along with tips on how you can reduce your environmental impact so that we can all continue to enjoy the Nisqually Watershed forever.

The Handbook has information about: what the natural world of the Nisqually provides to us every day, recreational opportunities, the fish and wildlife of the Watershed, transportation opportunities, hydropower, mud flows, and flooding, land management in the Watershed, building and development, water, riparian and wetlands area management,

noxious weeds, stormwater and low impact development, animal management, forestry and agriculture, and conserving your land, along with many additional resources to help you increase your stewardship.

We hope that you will keep this guide as a handy reference. We will also keep updating the guide online at nisquallyriver.org. We would like to thank the Environmental Protection Agency for providing the funding to create this guide and the Nisqually Indian Tribe for providing the funding to distribute it throughout the watershed.

If you don't live in the Nisqually Watershed and you would like a copy, please send an email to info@nisquallyriver.org and request a copy today.

Get Involved with the NRC's Citizens Advisory Committee

The Nisqually River Council's (NRC's) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is a diverse group of citizens dedicated to restoring and protecting the Nisqually Watershed. Members come from all walks of life, including watershed residents, local business owners, partner organization employees, and past Council members. What the members all have in common is a love for the watershed and respect for the natural world and its resources. Holding three voting seats, the most of any participating organization, the CAC has a strong influence on the NRC's activities and policies.



The purpose of the Citizens Advisory Committee is to:



- Provide NRC with a community perspective
- Notify the NRC about relevant watershed activities
- Request, information, approvals, or actions from the Council related to resident concerns
- Participate in watershed-related training programs
- Participate and serve on various NRC sub-committees and volunteer for watershed activities, including the Nisqually River Education Project, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Nisqually Land Trust Site Stewards, various forestry committees, the Nisqually Tribe's Salmon Recovery Program, Scenic Byways, and the NRC Executive Committee.

The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month to discuss issues in the watershed, volunteer opportunities, and projects to further the progress of the Nisqually River Council and the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan. Meetings alternate from the upper to lower watershed each month. Living in the watershed is not a requirement. All you need is a desire to get involved.



Those interested in joining should contact Ashley Von Essen, Program Coordinator for the NRC, either by email at ashley@nisquallyriver.org or by calling 360.438.8715. For more information, visit www.nisquallyriver.org.



The Nisqually River Education Project

What an amazing 2012-2013 school year! Thanks to active participation and involvement from 6 school districts, we continue to *provide students service learning projects that link Washington State learning goals and standards with local environmental issues, inspiring stewardship of the Nisqually Watershed and the world.*

We accomplished a lot this year, including:

- 850+ 3rd-12th graders monitored water quality in local streams and rivers with the help of 50 students from The Evergreen State College
- 12 trips with 670 students and 130 parents and teachers to restore riparian habitat
- 13 trips with 270 students to toss more than 2,500 salmon carcasses
- Co-hosting the 21st Annual Student GREEN Congress with nearly 400 students
- 8 trips with approximately 400 students to the Nisqually Nat'l Wildlife Refuge for "Eye on Nature" field studies



Many thanks to all of the teachers, students, parent volunteers and project partners that make this work happen!



2013 Summer Teacher Institute Climate Change in the Pacific NW

June 19, 20 and 21st, NREP will partner with South Sound GREEN and ESD 113 to host this year's Summer Teachers Institute - Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest. It will be held at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Teachers will gain skills and experience to implement climate change science experiments and research in their classrooms, update their water quality monitoring skills, and gain understanding of how climate change is affecting water quality, particularly ocean acidification. Local experts from tribes, including the Skokomish, the University of Washington, and Taylor Shellfish will bring this topic to our teachers so they can stay up-to-date on this pressing global issue, with an emphasis how it is affecting the local ecology of the Pacific NW. We will hear how local tribes are taking the lead on climate change action locally and learn how to take action at our schools to make a difference, whether lowering our energy use, recycling, monitoring bloom times or composting food waste, it all adds up to make a difference!



Meet the Spring TESC Interns!

Rebecca Shaub

Rebecca Shaub is a junior at the Evergreen State College and the new intern for the Nisqually River Education Project. Academically, Rebecca has spent a great deal of time focusing on visual art as well as environmental education and various earth sciences. She grew up in Pennsylvania along the Susquehanna River, kayaking and canoeing with her sister and parents throughout the summer, and feels more comfortable swimming in the water than she does running on the land. She and her parents moved out West to a little town called Tonasket in Northeastern Washington a little over 5 years ago and explored the rolling hills and valleys of her home and surrounding country with the family dog (a border collie named Teddy) and her two horses (a mare named Rida and a gelding she lovingly refers to as Boody). She loves riding bareback through the sagebrush and gardening with her parents in the summer and snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. Rebecca moved to Olympia 3 years ago and works seasonally on trail crews (both for the USFS and the PNTA) when she's not in school and has started a garden of her own in her backyard with the help of her 3 wonderful roommates. She hopes to strengthen her skills as a naturalist and educator this quarter and hopes to become more involved in the restoration and conservation work of the Nisqually Watershed long after her internship is through.



Kelly Oslick

Hi, all! I'm Kelly Oslick, a new intern for the Nisqually River Education Project. I'm currently a junior at the Evergreen State College, studying visual art and environmental studies. After my bachelor's degree, I hope to pursue a career as an art teacher and environmental educator. Washington has always been my home. I grew up on a small island in the Puget Sound, and came to Evergreen to study art, but also to stay close to the region I love. Over the past three years, in various Evergreen programs, I've participated in water quality testing and GRREN Congress with the Nisqually River Education Project, estuary restoration at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, and litter removal with the Nisqually Land Trust. Over time, I've developed a real connection with this watershed, and the Nisqually River Education Project seemed like a great place to start getting more involved. It's so exciting to work with such an amazing organization, and I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity.



Nisqually River Foundation
12501 Yelm Highway SE
Olympia, WA 98513

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Save the Dates!
Nisqually Watershed Festival 9/28
Eatonville Salmon Fest 10/19

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Important Dates, Happenings, and Information

July

9 CAC Meeting - TBD
13 Mt. Rainier Wine Festival
19 NRC Meeting - UW Pack Forest, Eatonville

August

13 CAC Meeting - TBD
16 NRC Meeting - Mount Rainier National Park, Ashford
25 National Park Service's Birthday - Free Entrance to Mt. Rainier

September

10 CAC Meeting - TBD
14 & 15 Rainier Mountain Festival
20 NRC Meeting - NNWR, Olympia
28 Nisqually Watershed Festival, NNWR, Olympia
National Public Lands Day

October

8 CAC Meeting - TBD
18 NRC Meeting - Ashford Fire Station, Ashford
19 Eatonville Salmon Fest, Mill Pond Park

Contacts

NRC/CAC -- Nisqually River Council
info@nisquallyriver.org
360.438.8715

NREP -- Nisqually River Ed. Project
sheila@nisquallyriver.org
360.438.8715 x 2153

NSS -- Nisqually Stream Stewards
perry.don@nisqually-nsn.gov
360.438.8687 x 2143

NLT -- Nisqually Land Trust
staff@nisquallylandtrust.org
360.489.3400

NNWR -- Nisqually National Wildlife
Refuge (I-5 at Exit 114)
http://www.fws.gov/Nisqually
360.753.9467

NW Trek
jessica.moore@nwtrek.com
360.832.6117

For up to date information and meeting locations,
visit www.nisquallyriver.org or send us an email at
info@nisquallyriver.org.



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