

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN STRAIT ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY

Washington State University Extension in Clallam & Jefferson Counties (WSU) and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) partnered to provide environmental education, training, and ongoing coordination to community members and students who are helping restore riparian ecosystems on the North Olympic Peninsula.

Project outcomes

- 2 Stream Steward courses completed – providing over 82 hours of classroom & field instruction.
- 52 Stream Steward volunteers trained.
- 18 natural resource organizations involved.
- 1,262 volunteer hours recorded valued at \$26,500.
- 30 partner organizations benefited from volunteer work.
- 78% of those surveyed say they will volunteer more than 40 hours in 2020.
- 300 receive monthly email of current opportunities submitted by local organizations.
- Outreach continues via tinyurl.com/olypenvolunteer



Stream Stewards conducting benthic invertebrate monitoring in the Dungeness River.

Four schools in Clallam and Jefferson Counties (*Blue Heron, Chimacum, Clallam Bay, Sequim Middle School*) engaged in the Real Learning Real Work program in the classroom and field.

- 180 students designed, implemented, and monitored an actual restoration project of their own.
- 7 teachers and 20 trained volunteers participated.
- 400 native trees and shrubs planted.
- Partnerships with teachers and the school districts were strengthened.



Students record field notes to understand different habitat characteristics after they observed the summer chum run on Salmon Creek.

Success stories

WSU and NOSC established a strong partnership during this project. Together, they have achieved significant progress toward engaging the community in activities benefiting Straits Ecosystem Recovery.

Our report *Engaging volunteers in environmental work in the recovery of the Strait of Juan de Fuca* found people who volunteer for the environment on the Olympic Peninsula are motivated by the same reasons as those found in the literature:

- *I want to make a difference.*
- *I love this place and I want to give back.*
- *I've made so many friends.*

Students improved the riparian buffer along Salmon Creek, Chimacum Creek, and the Hoko River by planting more than 400 native trees and shrubs.

Future Opportunities

A solid foundation has been built for continued and expanded training, education, and engagement of adults and youth.

What you can do: protect and restore the Straits ecosystem by participating in trainings and volunteer opportunities.

Visit tinyurl.com/olypenvolunteer

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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