



# Puyallup River Tales

A newsletter of the Puyallup River Watershed Council  
Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2006

## Tribes work to save White River steelhead

Following the lowest steelhead returns in 50 years, the Muckleshoot and Puyallup tribes are launching a program to help save the imperiled stock. With help from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, the tribes are taking a portion of the steelhead that pass through a fish trap on the White River and spawning them in a hatchery environment.

“If steelhead native to this watershed can’t thrive in the wild, the only option is to raise some of them in a hatchery to ensure their survival and make sure their genetic traits aren’t lost,” said Blake Smith, enhancement manager for the Puyallup Tribe. Because certain conditions, such as water temperature, can be controlled, fish show a higher rate of survival in hatcheries as juveniles than they do in the wild.

Six years ago more than 1,700 steelhead were seen throughout the Puyallup watershed. That number dropped to just over 1,000 in 2001; and then to under 300 last year. The steelhead in the Puyallup River watershed are part of a larger Puget Sound stock that is currently under review for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.

After being raised at the state’s Voights Creek hatchery the steelhead will be transported to the Muckleshoot Tribe’s White River hatchery for release. “It is vital that these steelhead acclimate to this particular tributary in the watershed,” said Mike Mahovlich, fisheries biologist with the Muckleshoot Tribe. “Eventually, these fish we’ve taken this year will be the first generation in a wild



*Eric Marks, biologist with the Puyallup Tribe, measures a White River steelhead.*

broodstock program that will preserve the unique genetics of this run.”

Without intervention steelhead might disappear from the watershed. “When a house is burning down, you don’t stand around asking why, you grab a hose and start putting it out,” said Russ Ladley, resource protection manager for the Puyallup Tribe.

*The Puyallup River Watershed Council is a forum which promotes and implements programs that restore, maintain, and enhance the watershed in order to protect its environmental, economic, and cultural health.*

# New Homes Can Be “Built Green”

We all are aware of recycling programs in our communities that encourage residents and businesses to recycle items and materials that just a few years ago would have ended up in our landfills. But what about recycling on a much grander scale? How about a program that encourages reusing materials to build homes? And what if that program went beyond recycling to encourage home construction that provided a healthier, more sustainable living environment? Introducing the Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™ program!

*Tiffany Speir*  
**Personal  
Perspective**

So what does it mean to be a Built Green™ developer, builder or remodeler? Built Green™ is a voluntary, self-certified rating system for plats, new homes, or remodels that are constructed to standards above required development and building codes. The mission of Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™ is to work in partnership to create safer, healthier and more efficient homes, reduce impacts of construction and development, and improve and protect the valuable community and natural resources of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Members of the Built Green™ program receive an orientation, attend ongoing education classes about green building, have access to local and national green building material resources, and have dedicated themselves to promoting green building techniques. Built Green™ is a designation that only program members may use.



2006 has been an exciting year for Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™. Here are just a few things we are accomplishing:

So far this year, almost 1400 single and multi-family homes have been certified as Built Green™ in developments across Pierce County. This includes not only new development sites, but also the Salishan redevelopment project in the City of Tacoma.

The program is a sponsor of the Tacoma EnviroHouse, which opened in conjunction with MBA's Tour of Remodeled Homes in early October and is located at the Tacoma Landfill Recycling Center. The EnviroHouse features a wide variety of green construction ideas, and is a destination spot for both contractors and the public who want to learn more about green building techniques and materials. For more information on the EnviroHouse, go to: <http://newwww.ci.tacoma.wa.us/Page.aspx?hid=2218>

The Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™ program is a member, along with other local Built Green™ programs throughout Washington State, of Built Green™ Washington. Built Green™ Washington is a statewide “umbrella” group that will

focus its efforts on consumer awareness and education opportunities for the industry as well as the public in 2006 and beyond.

To check out information about The Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™ program as well as other Built Green™ programs across the state, go to [www.builtgreenwashington.org](http://www.builtgreenwashington.org). For more information, contact Tiffany Speir at 272-2112 ext. 105 today.

For more information and volunteer opportunities, visit our Web site: [www.piercecountywa.org/PRWC](http://www.piercecountywa.org/PRWC)  
Or, send an email to: [PC-PRWC@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:PC-PRWC@co.pierce.wa.us)

The Puyallup River Watershed Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, 5-7 p.m., at Sumner City Hall, 1104 Maple St.

# Pierce County Confronts the Future: Sustainability

Evidence of growth is all around us - roads being widened, subdivisions sprouting up like crops in farmland, and strip malls under construction along "Main Street USA." We often feel its frustrating effects as we sit stalled in traffic, send our children to crowded schools, or see a favored piece of the countryside cleared for new development. It is projected that Pierce County's growth will exceed the state average and that of King County into the next decade. What, then, can we do to ensure that we are adequately planning today - for tomorrow?

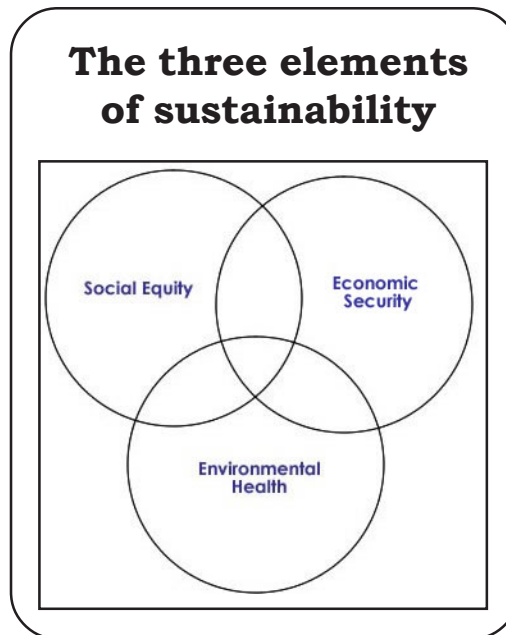
Sustainability could offer the answer. Simply defined, the principle of sustainability requires that the needs of the present do not compromise the ability of future generations to provide for themselves.

Washington's rising population naturally results in increased demands for public services. Pierce County had a growth rate of about 30.4% - nearly 3% higher than the state's average growth rate - between 1990 to 2000.

With an average annual travel delay at about 46 hours in 2004, the Seattle-Tacoma region has some of the worst traffic in America. According to the Governor's Sustainable Washington Panel, by the year 2020, congestion is expected to affect more than 2,200 miles of our roadways, giving us three times the traffic congestion we have today.

Growth also has costs to our natural environment. For example, every year the state loses 23,720 acres (65 acres a day) of farmland and as of the last U.S. Agriculture Census, Pierce County lost, on average, 7 acres each day between 1992 and 1997. In 2000, the state consumed over 5 billion gallons of water a day for public, domestic, industrial and irrigation use.

The Governor's Sustainable Washington Panel (2003) found that Washingtonians disposed of 6.4 million tons of waste (enough to cover



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## *Volunteer groups involved in watershed health*

**Citizens for a Healthy Bay**  
<http://www.healthybay.org>  
[chb@healthybay.org](mailto:chb@healthybay.org)  
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100, Tacoma  
(253) 383-2429

**Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands**  
<http://www.hylebos.org/>  
[chinook@hylebos.org](mailto:chinook@hylebos.org)  
(253) 929-1519

**Friends of Clarks Creek**  
(253) 864-6042

**Fennel Creek Preservation Group**  
(253) 826-1079

**Pierce Stream Team**  
<http://www.piercecountycd.org/streamtm.htm>  
[streamteam@piercecounytc.org](mailto:streamteam@piercecounytc.org)  
(253) 845-2973

**South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group**  
<http://spsseg.org>  
[spsseg@spsseg.org](mailto:spsseg@spsseg.org)  
(360) 412-0808

**Friends of Swan Creek Watershed**  
(253) 472-7264  
[sueb.@prodigy.net](mailto:sueb.@prodigy.net)

## Sustainability, from page 3

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four lanes, 18 feet deep of I-90 from Spokane to Seattle). If this waste were recycled, it could create 15,000 jobs. As of 2005, it was estimated that Pierce County's 540,000 residents created 394,708 tons of garbage.

Pierce County has taken various incremental steps in moving toward sustainability by adopting Low Impact Development regulations, improving protections to streams and wetlands through a better Critical Areas Ordinance, and appointing several task forces to explore such issues as transportation impact fees, farmland preservation, and affordable housing. The challenge, however, is to pull all these issues together in a comprehensive way to compliment existing efforts and provide consistency between programs, and across departments and jurisdictions.

The Sustainable Pierce County project can offer a solution. For two-years, a small team of partners have been working together to develop a strategy

aimed at moving Pierce County and its diverse communities forward together toward a more sustainable future - the Sustainable Pierce County Project (SPCP). Friends of Pierce County, together with its partners at the Pierce County Planning Department, Resource Dimensions, Senator Jim Kastama, Bruce Lachney (farmer and Pierce County Planning Commissioner), Linda Burgess (Puyallup River Watershed Council), Mike Crowley (Master Builder's Association), and Jon Purbaugh, (Northwest Justice Project) met with the Pierce County Executive and began dialogue on a Sustainable Pierce County. Participants were encouraged with the Executive's support and the group agreed that a county-wide inventory be conducted to see what sustainable practices are already in use. Friends of Pierce County asked the Executive to include the inventory in the county's 2007 budget.

The Friends of Pierce County, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, is seeking financial support for the SPC project. For more information go to: [www.friendsofpiercecounty.org](http://www.friendsofpiercecounty.org).



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