



Puyallup River Tales

A newsletter of the Puyallup River Watershed Council
Volume 3, Issue 2

January 2008

Puyallup Tribe tracks bull trout to habitat



Eric Marks, a biologist for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, tracks a bull trout on the upper White River.

Small seasonal streams that don't even show up on most maps are vital spawning habitat for bull trout in the Puyallup River watershed. "These small streams give bull trout exactly what they need to thrive," said Russ Ladley, resource protection manager for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians the tribe. Bull trout are listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Puyallup Tribe found these streams when they tracked radio tagged bull trout throughout the Puyallup River watershed. The tribe tagged more than 40 fish over the past two years, tracking each for about six months until the radio tag runs out of juice.

The small streams often flow from intermittent

sources high in the foothills. "Sometimes there are streams that just seem to appear from a hill side spring that we didn't know existed," said Ladley. "If we came back a year later, that stream might have dried up or moved hundreds of yards."

After tracking the fish to their spawning grounds, tribal staff mark the exact position of the fish's spawning redds - or nests - with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Mapping redd locations allow the tribe to come back to the bull trout spawning beds in future years to see how habitat conditions have changed.

"Because few bull trout live in the Puyallup watershed, there is not much information on their populations and behavior," said Ladley. "Every piece of data we can uncover is important."

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 guide teaches local history of White and Carbon rivers

Early in 2008, a regional and local historical guide showcasing the communities of the Carbon and White Rivers Watersheds will be available to visitors of the Carbon and White Rivers Watersheds. The *Historic Walking Tour* travel guide, the size of a folded state road map, details both regional and local historical sites.

Nearly four years ago, the Communities of the Carbon and White River Valleys partnership was developed among: the towns of Buckley, Enumclaw, Orting, South Prairie and Wilkeson; the Puyallup River Watershed Council; and Mount Rainier National Park

The first cooperative project from this partnership was to design and produce a series of self-guiding historic walking brochures for each community. Each brochure is unique to a specific community, but they are all related through their shared regional history. You are invited to take a historic walk through each community and encouraged to explore the historical interrelationships of these communities in a regional context.

Small community groups volunteered their time and knowledge, photographs and descriptions of local and regional history to help produce *The Historic Walking Tour series*. Students of the Art Institute of Seattle designed and readied each of the guides for printing. The Boeing Company approved an in-kind printing request from the Puyallup River Watershed Foundation. Ten thousand copies are to be made available for distribution by the five towns, Pierce County Parks, libraries, chambers and tourist groups.

- By Allen Zulauf

County and PRWC host events on watershed-friendly development

As development grows throughout our region, an increasing number of government agencies, developers, builders, environmentalists, home owners and citizens have become interested in finding ways to minimize the effects of new development on our watershed. A suite of innovative development practices, known collectively as low impact development (LID), has the potential to more naturally and effectively manage stormwater while also fostering livable communities. Because of this potential, Pierce County Water Programs, MBA of Pierce County and the Puyallup River Watershed Council recently sponsored a series of public events designed to increase awareness of LID tools and practices in the Puyallup Watershed.

A conference held October 12th introduced LID to a broad audience. Speakers used case studies from the greater Puget Sound region to examine the tools, goals and challenges associated with low impact development. Developers, contractors, plan reviewers and inspectors were invited to learn more about how to implement LID techniques in Pierce County at the LID Implementation Workshop on October 18th. Presentations focused on local codes and

standards, LID projects in Pierce County, and the long-term performance of LID systems.

Low impact development practices emphasize the conservation and use of existing natural features integrated with small-scale stormwater controls. These practices mimic natural hydrologic patterns and are intended to prevent harm to streams, lakes and wetlands by reducing runoff. Common LID tools include rain gardens, biofiltration, soil amendments, green roofs and permeable pavement. Examples of these tools can be found throughout the Puyallup watershed, including at the county Environmental Services Building, the WSU-Puyallup campus, and the City of Tacoma Landfill pervious pavement demonstration project.

A total of approximately 200 people attended the two events, which were sponsored in part by the state Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The LID conference and implementation workshop were the first two of four events planned to focus on LID and stormwater management. For more information on these and other upcoming events, visit www.piercecountywa.org/wpconf.

- By Melissa Paulson

Friends of Carbon Canyon prevent septage

The Friends of the Carbon Canyon is a group of people committed to the protection and the preservation of the pristine Carbon Canyon area. The Carbon Canyon is northwest of Mount Rainier and includes the unique and ecologically important rainforest north of the Mt. Rainier National Park boundary.

The Carbon River Valley is a box canyon and harbors one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in western Washington; exceeding 100" of rainfall per year. This area is home to the largest and lowest elevation glacier in the continental United States the Carbon Glacier. Diverse habitats throughout the valley support threatened and endangered species. It is an important wildlife corridor that runs north-south through the Carbon River Valley and into the Cascades.

The Friends of the Carbon Canyon formed in 1996, when three mudslides from logging sites just missed our loaded school bus. With our core group of locals (many of us using solar and hydro electricity and all of us dependent on getting our water from surface streams) has expanded to 400+ people on our mailing list who are also concerned about the Upper Carbon Valley.

The Friends of the Carbon Canyon learned and implemented important skills and techniques in dealing with a multi-national timber company. The Friends of the Carbon Canyon monitored cutting permits, protested, lobbied, negotiated, and worked with the DNR and other agencies in order to regain balance and ecological security. As a watchdog group, we've tackled things such as: dangerous logging practices and chemical spraying near our homes, meth labs, poaching, garbage dumping, etc. We've also brought attention to private land sales to assist in getting them into public hands for future recreation lands, with over 2,500 acres already set aside. We've also insisted on "corporate responsibility" from companies doing business here.



We have been successful in our latest mission to keep septage (lime-stabilized septic tank waste) from being sprayed onto 1,300 acres of forest land above the Carbon River. NW Cascade Inc. of Puyallup, parent company of Honey Bucket and Flohawks, a septic tank cleaning company, proposed to spray up to 6 million gallons a year of the partially treated waste onto property owned by the White River School District. The proposed septage spraying would have come within 1/4 mile of the City of Carbonado's watershed (their sole supply of water for the entire town) and future plans were to spray septage upstream within 5 miles of the entrance to Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park, paralleling Hwy 165 and the Rails to Trails and coming within 600' of the Carbon River.

On December 12, 2007 the White River School Board notified NW Cascade and various county and state agencies that they were not pursuing the proposal after receiving a copy of a letter written from the State Department of Health to the county health department, indicating that NW Cascade Inc.'s plans to spray lime-stabilized septic tank waste, could pose a human health hazard, "It is

likely that lime-stabilized septage contains disease causing organisms that can make people sick" This Septage spraying proposal could have been implemented if it weren't for finding a public notice, stapled to a tree, in the nick of time, and also for a frightening loophole which allows Bio-solids/Septage, or as the EPA would call it "fertilizer" to be spread on land where people live, work and play contaminating our water, air and land, by only requiring that a Forest Practices permit application be filled out.

It is the hope and goal of the Friends of the Carbon Canyon that the skills and lessons learned from this community based, grassroots campaign will inspire and assist others in similar causes.

- By Jill Cartwright



Archie Cantrell, a fisheries technician for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, throws an adult chinook salmon at the tribe's Clark Creek Hatchery. The tribe releases hundreds of thousands of juvenile chinook from the facility each year.

Volunteer groups involved in watershed health

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

<http://www.healthybay.org>
chb@healthybay.org

917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100, Tacoma
(253) 383-2429

Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands

<http://www.hylebos.org>
chinook@hylebos.org

(253) 874-2005

Friends of Clarks Creek

(253) 864-6042

Fennel Creek Preservation Group

<http://www.fennelcreek.org>

(253) 826-1079

Pierce Stream Team

<http://www.piercecountycd.org/streamtm.htm>
streamteam@piercecountycd.org

(253) 845-2973

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

<http://spsseg.org>
spsseg@spsseg.org

(360) 412-0808

Friends of Swan Creek Watershed

(253) 472-7264

sueb@prodigy.net

Friends of Lower White River

<http://flwr.wetpaint.com/page/Home>

For more information and volunteer opportunities, visit the Puyallup River Watershed Council Web site: www.piercecountywa.org/PRWC or, send an email to: 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.