



PUYALLUP RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
<http://www.piercecountywa.org/prwc>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE PUYALLUP RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL REVIEWS CHINOOK SALMON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN PIERCE COUNTY AND PUGET SOUND, LEARNS ABOUT THE NEW NATIVE PLANT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND DISCUSSES ITS 2006 WORK PLAN

Date & Time : Wednesday Dec 21, 2005 5-7 PM
Place: Sumner City Council Chambers, 1104 Maple Street, Suite 205, Sumner WA
Speakers:

- ♦ Debby Hyde, Pierce County Special Project Coordinator
- ♦ Margaret Duncun, Watershed Liaison, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound
- ♦ Anna Thurston, Native Plant Stewardship Program Coordinator

Debby Hyde will highlight the salmon recovery actions Pierce County staff are involved with in the Puyallup River watershed area. Included in the presentation will be comments about the written materials submitted to the federal agencies for inclusion in the regional Puget Sound salmon recovery plan (Shared Salmon Strategy for Puget Sound); the anticipated process and timing for federal acceptance of the plan; restoration actions already undertaken; and major restoration actions anticipated in the next five to ten years. Margaret Duncan will highlight the process at the regional level (Puget Sound) for review and approval of the Recovery Plan. This includes upcoming publication in the Federal Register, opportunity for public input, and approval by NOAA Fisheries.

Anna Thurston will talk about the new Native Plant Stewardship Program in Pierce County, including the Native Plant Salvage Program and the upcoming stewardship training program, developed by the Washington Native Plant Society. The training program will occur weekly on Wednesdays from January 25 to April 5. Applications are due by January 13. The native plant salvage program is designed to recover native plants from sites slated for development and keep them in a holding facility for later use in revegetation projects.

Linda Burgess will overview the outcomes of the recent PRWC retreat, including 2005 accomplishments, future directions and the proposed 2006 work plan. The workplan has goals, outcomes and quarterly tasks or products in three areas: organizational development, projects, and forums/tours. Example projects include: (1) supporting existing and future watershed ("Friends of") groups to facilitate local activities, (2) developing and implementing a workplan for the Clarks Creek watershed, and (3) producing a "State of the Watershed" assessment report. A calendar for 2006 Forums and tours will be developed in January.

This forum is held the 4th Wednesday of every month except Nov & Dec. The public is invited to attend. You can find out more about this organization and future Forum programs on our Web Site. www.piercecountywa.org/prwc

The Puyallup River Watershed Council is a forum that promotes and implements programs to restore, maintain, and enhance the watershed in order to protect its environmental, economic, and cultural health. It is a voluntary group with diverse membership, representing private Citizens, Cities, Counties, Tribes, State and Federal agencies, universities, and private industry. Please see our website for more information.