

Serve your community!
Help Restore the Environment!
Boost your Resume!
Fill your Free Time!

We are currently recruiting board members. We need you! We are seeking professionals, non-professionals, young adults and retirees. Even if you don't know anything about restoration work, we need you to help govern our organization. The current board is scheduled to rotate directors and officers at the end of 2006.

Now is the time to show your interest, come meet the board and get started so you can take over in January.

Don't delay! Call or email if you're interested in becoming a board member to (253) 779-8890 or pugetcreek@yahoo.com.

WHY DOES IT TAKE SO MUCH WORK TO REINTRODUCE SALMON POPULATIONS IN PUGET CREEK?

Over the years, salmon that have tried to return to Puget Creek to spawn have run into a few problems. The following is a short description of some of the obstacles they have encountered and what has been or will be done to correct them:

Impasse #1: In 1994, a Puyallup Tribal Fisheries assessment determined that the stream urgently needed to create better riparian conditions and additional pools and other ways to elevate the oxygen content of the water. The assessment also showed an underground fish impasse culvert structure. In August 1997, removal of the fish impasse culvert and the replacement of an underground baffled culvert for fish passage was completed.

Impasse #2: In 1998, Pierce County Stream Team initiated a salmon-monitoring project. During this project three Coho salmon were observed going through the new structure but were not able to get through the next culvert impasse. An evaluation of the problem made it evident that this next culvert would also need to be replaced.

By 2003 the culvert had been removed and a new fishway installed. PCRS immediately began a monitoring project to ascertain its use by salmon returning to spawn in the upper creek. This monitoring project would also provide us with information on other impasse problems upstream.

Impasse #3: In 2006, after three years of monitoring the use of the fishway, PCRS has identified an elevation problem at the mouth of the underground fish ladder that could be leading to juvenile salmon mortality.

Two consultants and the City of Tacoma have confirmed that the elevation of the mouth of the fish ladder is such that the out-migrating juvenile salmonids are being injured from the impact after falling from the mouth of the ladder to the concrete in the storm drain.

Currently, PCRS is communicating with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regarding the permits necessary to repair the problem as well as working with the City of Tacoma to develop a solution. We are actively seeking grants to cover the cost of the necessary repairs and hope to have this project completed before spring 2007.



European Green Crab Fun Facts

We are looking for the European Invasive Green Crab but we hope we don't find them! The Green Crab was introduced via ships ballast from Europe to the Eastern Seaboard of the US, and from there to San Francisco Bay. They have been spreading up the West Coast and have been reported as far as Willapa Bay and Vancouver BC. These creatures take over the habitat area that they reside in; they kill and exclude the native species that once lived in that area.

When the Green Crab starts to inhabit an area it will eat not only the vegetation but also any creature smaller than itself. The result of the Green Crabs feasting is that the young Dungeness and Red Rock crabs never grow up. The Green Crab has no natural predators such as bacteria, viruses or diseases to help control it, so populations multiply quickly. In short, it decreases diversity and destabilizes the natural balance of organisms where ever it is able to find them. But, since we are documenting all the wildlife found in our pots, we will know which animals suffer if a green crab invasion does occur and thus, which species will need to be restored.



SEEKING A BOOKKEEPER

After years of service, our bookkeeper has had to resign his position. Therefore, we are currently seeking a bookkeeper to create our monthly profit and loss reports and balance sheets, to file our annual 990EZ and to otherwise work with our finances.

So if you are retired, just graduated, working or whatever and you have experience or education that would prepare you for this opportunity, please call or email your interest in becoming our bookkeeper to (253) 779-8890 or pugetcreek@yahoo.com.



Puget Creek Restoration Society is currently compiling a cookbook to put up for sale as a fundraiser. We are looking specifically for recipes with ingredients native to our area.

The end product need not be a main course or dessert – though those are appreciated, of course! We also welcome home remedies. If you have a recipe to donate, please e-mail it to PCRS at pugetcreek@yahoo.com.

Hello!

Welcome to new members and welcome back for those renewing memberships! We're glad to have you all!

Sophia Goode, Lauren Weber,
David & Margaret Elofson, Glen & Mimi Kray,
Deborah Brown, Bruce Larson, Bill & Claudia
Anderson, Shannon McKinnon, Ralph Klose,
Dan Decker.



The new and improved membership cards

Grants!

Without the great support of the following organizations and others like them we couldn't do all the great work we do.

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Sequoia Foundation, The Russell Family Foundation, Pacific Lutheran University, and City of Tacoma.

Come Join a Committee

Membership and Outreach Committee:

If you're a people person, then you're the person our people are looking for. The Membership and Outreach Committee is responsible for the newsletter you're reading at this moment! We also work to increase and inform our membership base, and have a few educational projects in the works. We are also in the process of completing a membership and volunteer database, which we will be responsible for maintaining. If you are educationally or promotionally minded, please drop by one of our meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the PCRS office downtown. See you there!

Fund Raising and Grant Writing Committee:

We did a good job naming this committee. We could use a hand coming up with new and creative ways of funding our restoration and education endeavors. Right now we have a few in process, including a book sale of the book "All The Ways I Found To Hurt Myself". We get 1/2 the proceeds of our sales from the \$15.00 book. There are a number of grants "in the works" as well, with many more that need to be written. If you have some great ideas for new fund raising projects, have some know-how when it comes to writing grants, or if you'd like to know more about the process, please feel free to join us at our committee meeting the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the PCRS office.

Terrestrial and Nearshore Committee:

If you like to get your hands in the dirt, this is the committee for you. If you prefer to keep your digits clean – well, you belong here, too! This committee is responsible for invasive plant removal, native plant placings, studying the eelgrass, and a number of other hands-on restoration activities. We also deal with issues such as changing the tree cutting ordinance in the City of Tacoma, Critical Areas Ordinance regulations, monitoring and research endeavors, and GPS/GIS work and a lot of other interesting stuff. Remember the articles about the fish ladder and the PIE pond in past newsletters? That was us! If you would like to be a member of this committee, or if you'd just like to watch how we work for an evening, please feel free to join us at the PCRS office the third Thursday of any month. We'd love to have you!