



# THE STEWARDSHIP Messenger

newsletter of Stewardship Partners

Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

Spring 2009

## Leading the Way Toward Puget Sound Cleanup

The problems plaguing Puget Sound are no longer hidden beneath the beautiful vistas of our inland sea. The telltale signs of dying Orcas, contaminated beaches, shellfish bed closures, and endangered salmon runs are metaphorically and, even literally, coming to the surface. Most recently, the newly formed state agency charged with coordinating recovery of the Sound, the Puget Sound Partnership, released the Puget Sound Action Agenda with the ambitious goal of restoring Puget Sound by 2020. The Action Agenda recommends specific actions and approaches for government, organizations, businesses, and individuals to restore the Sound.



photo: Center for Whale Research

Stewardship Partners has been an early leader in implementing many of the recommendations of the Action Agenda with our innovative models, demonstrating collaborative approaches to environmental stewardship with citizens, businesses, and private landowners. For example, the Action Agenda suggests utilizing eco-labeling programs to build support for sustainable practices, as we have demonstrated with the successful Salmon-Safe certification program. The plan also discusses emerging ecosystem service markets to compensate landowners for conservation practices, including carbon sequestration, water quality credits, and other potentially marketable ecosystem values. Stewardship Partners is exploring these opportunities with our partners in the Snoqualmie and Nisqually watersheds.

One of the most significant findings in the Action Agenda was identifying the main culprit of pollution as “non-point source pollution,” stemming from the land uses around the Sound, specifically stormwater runoff from

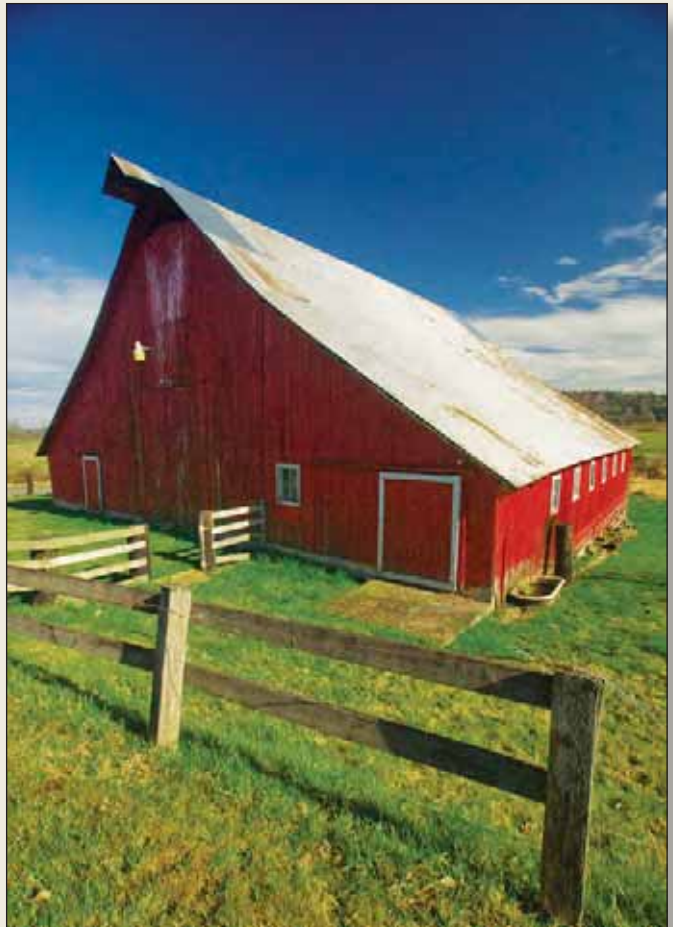
our expanding urban centers. Stewardship Partners’ latest effort directly addresses this issue by promoting Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to encourage on-site infiltration of stormwater. For example, we are hosting 24 rain garden workshops this year to teach landowners, businesses, landscaping professionals, and institutional managers about this method of treating stormwater, while also providing habitat and beautifying the landscape.

Other approaches suggested in the Action Agenda include engaging citizens to volunteer and/or take specific action to help clean up the Sound, which Stewardship Partners undertakes through volunteer planting events and our education and outreach programs. Most important, as implementation of the Puget Sound cleanup gets underway, the Partnership could look to Stewardship Partners for examples of how to support working landscapes of farms, forestland, and communities that adopt sustainable practices, which support both a healthy Puget Sound and a vibrant local economy.

**Stewardship Partners helps private landowners restore and preserve the natural landscapes of Washington State.**



# Snoqualmie Photography Project



*Stewardship Partners is working with Roddy Scheer Photography to document farms, habitat, restoration and community in the Snoqualmie Valley. Look for future announcements about exhibits.*

# Salmon Safe Expands to New Sectors: Residential Development and Golf Courses

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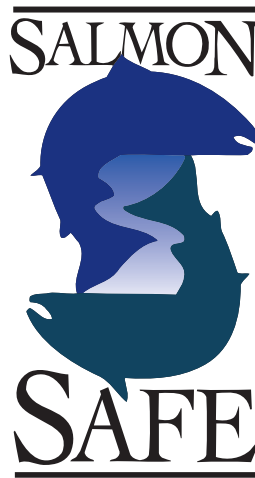
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Salmon Safe is leading the charge as a market-based incentive for watershed conservation and salmon recovery around Puget Sound and the Northwest. The release of the Puget Sound Action Agenda underscores the importance of our work in engaging private and institutional landowners and businesses in the Puget Sound cleanup. Salmon Safe has had tremendous success in the agricultural community as a trustworthy regional label, gaining national recognition as one of the most credible environmental labels in the country (according to Vanity Fair magazine, Real Simple, and Consumers Union). Salmon Safe has also expanded to the urban landscape, promoting water quality and habitat protection with corporate and institutional campuses and urban parks.

Through an outreach partnership with the Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability (NBIS), extensive outreach has been conducted to corporate and institutional campuses resulting in certifications awarded to the University of Washington Bothell campus, Port of Seattle Parks and natural areas, and Department of Ecology Headquarters. Additional assessments are currently underway. This recent wave of urban Salmon-Safe certifications builds on the work



in Oregon certifying the Nike corporate campus, Portland metro parks, and other notable entities.

Now, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Russell Family Foundation, we are developing guidelines for two new land-use applications: Golf Course Management and Residential Neighborhood Development. These programs will work to promote habitat protection, stormwater infiltration, Integrated Pest Management, water conservation, and other environmentally friendly practices within these potentially high-impact sectors.

Salmon-Safe residential development will build on the trend toward sustainable building practices as demonstrated by successful programs such as the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification and more locally based programs such as Built Green. These programs focus on energy efficiency, materials procurement, use of low toxic substances, indoor air quality and related issues associated with buildings. Through Salmon Safe, we will expand the green building lexicon to consider habitat protection, stormwater management, landscape care, and other issues associated with site development before and during the construction of buildings.



*Golf course surrounded by development*

The Salmon-Safe Golf Program is working with the golf course industry, which in Washington State boasts 320 golf courses covering tens of thousands of acres. Many of these golf courses are located along productive stream systems and, if not managed carefully, can have a large impact on the environment. We are partnering with the Western Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association to use the Salmon-Safe program as a tool to evaluate and reward

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# Salmon Safe Expands to New Sectors

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management decisions that reduce chemicals, curtail stormwater impacts, restore salmon streams and protect other wildlife habitat.

Both the golf course and residential standards are being developed with independent consultants and being sent out for peer review to a variety of stakeholders, including scientists, builders, and environmental groups. Once finalized, we will conduct pilot certification assessments to test the program with an eye toward making significant

improvements in these two sectors.

With the population of Puget Sound expected to increase by 2 million people by 2020, the problems of habitat loss, stormwater runoff, and water pollution will be exacerbated, unless action is taken immediately. The Salmon-Safe label is a well recognized tool for engaging businesses, institutions, and landowners in sustainable practices that protect and restore Puget Sound. We are continually looking for new applications of this successful program.

## Rain Garden Poster

**RAIN GARDEN**

Rain gardens work like a native forest by capturing and infiltrating stormwater from rooftops, driveways, and other hard surfaces. Rain gardens reduce flooding by absorbing water from impervious surfaces; filter oil, grease and toxic materials before they can pollute streams, lakes and bays; help to recharge the aquifer by increasing the quantity of water that soaks into the ground; provide beneficial wildlife habitat.

**Species available for the bottom of the rain garden—they can handle the saturation of winter and the drought of summer:**  
 - Plants for a sunny spot  
 - Plants for a shady spot

**Plants needing sun to part sun for the slope of the rain garden:**  
 - Plants for a sunny spot at the top of the rain garden for water and wildlife habitat

**Rain Garden sponsoring organizations:**  
 Clatsop County SWCD  
 Clatsop County Office of Sustainability  
 Clatsop County Water Environment Services  
 Clark County Washington  
 City of Oregon City  
 Clark Water Services  
 (Washington County Special District)  
 Grant Multnomah SWCD  
 Metro  
 Stewardship Partners  
 Thurston County Washington  
 Water Resources Program

**Plants shown in the poster:**  
 Common Camass *Camassia quamash*<sup>1</sup>  
 Shoney Fleabane *Eriogon speciosus*<sup>2</sup>  
 Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*<sup>2</sup>  
 Red-flowering Currant *Ribes sanguineum*<sup>1</sup>  
 Taper-tip Rush *Juncus acuminatus*<sup>1</sup>  
 Salmonberry *Rubus spectabilis*<sup>1</sup>  
 Pacific Ninebark *Physocarpus opulifolius*<sup>1</sup>  
 Sun Rose *Helianthemum nummularium*<sup>1</sup>  
 Douglas Spirea *Spirea douglasii*<sup>1</sup>  
 Black Twinberry *Lonicera imulicoides*<sup>1</sup>  
 Serviceberry *Amelanchier alnifolia*<sup>1</sup>  
 Slough Sedge *Carex obtusata*<sup>1</sup>  
 Stream Violet *Viola glabella*<sup>1</sup>  
 Western Columbine *Aquilegia formosa*<sup>1</sup>  
 California Aster *Aster chilensis*<sup>1</sup>  
 Deer Fern *Blockium spicatum*<sup>1</sup>  
 Red-osier Dogwood *Cornus sericea*<sup>1</sup>  
 Small fruited Bulrush *Scirpus micocarpus*<sup>1</sup>  
 Dagger-leaf Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*<sup>1</sup>  
 Tall Oregon-grape *Mikania angustifolia*<sup>1</sup>

This new poster, designed by artist John Pitcher, shows how a rain garden can be incorporated into yards and landscapes. Publisher: Good Nature Publishing. In addition to support from Stewardship Partners, this project was completed with the help of more than 10 other partners around Washington and Oregon.

To read more about our Rain Garden Poster project or to receive a free poster, please visit our website at [www.stewardshippartners.org](http://www.stewardshippartners.org).

# Rain Garden Workshops Take Root

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*Volunteers plant trees, shrubs and grasses at a rain garden installation at Columbia Crest Elementary School*

Rain gardens are sprouting up everywhere around Puget Sound. This new, innovative Low Impact Development tool is being used by private homeowners and professional landscape designers alike to infiltrate stormwater. Rain gardens limit the amount of runoff from impervious surfaces that would otherwise flow into local waterways.

Some benefits provided by rain gardens include:

- Filtering oil, grease and toxic materials
- Helping recharge the aquifer
- Absorbing water from impervious surfaces to reduce flooding
- Providing beneficial wildlife habitat

Due to these important ecosystem benefits and the low cost of building rain gardens, Stewardship Partners, in collaboration with WSU Cooperative Extension, is offering a series of classroom workshops and demonstration rain garden installations around Pierce and King Counties. The twelve classroom workshops will take place from January

through April of 2009, followed by twelve demonstration installations during the summer.

Workshops are free, but advanced registration is required. For more information, workshop locations, or to register, contact Becky Abbey at (206) 292-9875 or e-mail [ba@stewardshippartners.org](mailto:ba@stewardshippartners.org).



*Completed rain garden at Yelm High School*



# Sip Wine, Save Salmon More Wines to Choose From



*Promotion for Salmon-Safe wines*

Due to a unique partnership between Salmon Safe and the VINEA Winegrowers' Sustainable Trust, 25 Walla Walla Valley vineyards are now certified Salmon Safe. That's 56 percent of Walla Walla's total wine grape acreage.

The sites were assessed in conjunction with LIVE (Low Input Viticulture and Enology), a vineyard-specific eco-label program that conducts joint certifications with Salmon Safe. The newly certified vineyards include some of Washington State's most notable labels such as Abeja, L'Ecole N° 41, Woodward Canyon, Va Piano Vineyards and Amavi Cellars.

The newly certified vineyards in Walla Walla, along with certified vineyards in the Columbia Basin, Red Mountain, Yakima, and closer to home in Puget Sound, have added

a number of wines to the Salmon-Safe list. Wines made with over 90% grapes from Salmon-Safe certified vineyards are permitted to use the Salmon-Safe logo. This allows wineries that outsource grapes from certified vineyards to add their wines to the Salmon-Safe list.

Promotions are planned throughout the year to showcase Salmon-Safe wines and educate consumers and restaurateurs about the Salmon-Safe label. Our pro-bono ad agency, Portland-based Free Range Advertising, has developed a billboard and bus-side campaign to promote these wines.

As "eco-wines" gain in popularity in the marketplace, the Salmon-Safe label is being used to help market the unique identity of Washington wines.



map: Terra GIS

*We would like to thank Novelty Hill Winery and Terra Blanca Winery and Estate Vineyard for their generous donations of wine in support of Salmon-Safe promotions.*

*Map of Eastern Washington Salmon-Safe vineyards and farms*

# Intern Promotes Local Farmers

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*Ariel Waddell promotes Salmon-Safe farms*

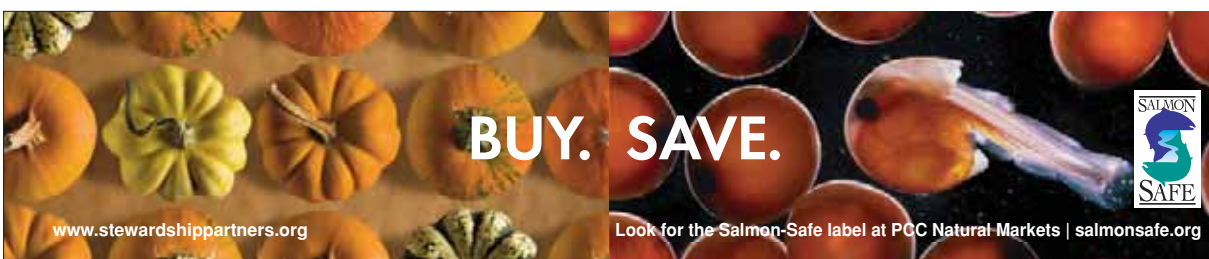
For the University of Washington's Program on the Environment capstone experience, I interned with Stewardship Partners as their Salmon-Safe Outreach and Education Coordinator. My internship experience revealed how incentive-based programs that are built around community values create sustainable business networks. Throughout the summer, I attended farmers' markets and environmental events to promote Salmon-Safe Farm Certification.

I found that Salmon Safe benefits the health of consumers and the environment by facilitating a cyclical food system and supporting local farmers committed to sustainable farming methods that protect water quality for salmon habitat. While promoting the program, I encouraged consumers to support Salmon-Safe farms and local agricultural products. I was impressed by the reliability of the Salmon-Safe logo and how it was received. Eco-friendly labeling is an important tool to promote sustainable practices and Salmon Safe encourages

farm practices that protect water quality and salmon habitat, while supporting the local economy.

I would like to thank Stewardship Partners for allowing me to become part of the organization. I thoroughly appreciate the lessons and kindness I received from all my mentors at the Stewardship Partners office.

– Ariel Waddell



[www.stewardshippartners.org](http://www.stewardshippartners.org)

Look for the Salmon-Safe label at PCC Natural Markets | [salmonsafe.org](http://salmonsafe.org)

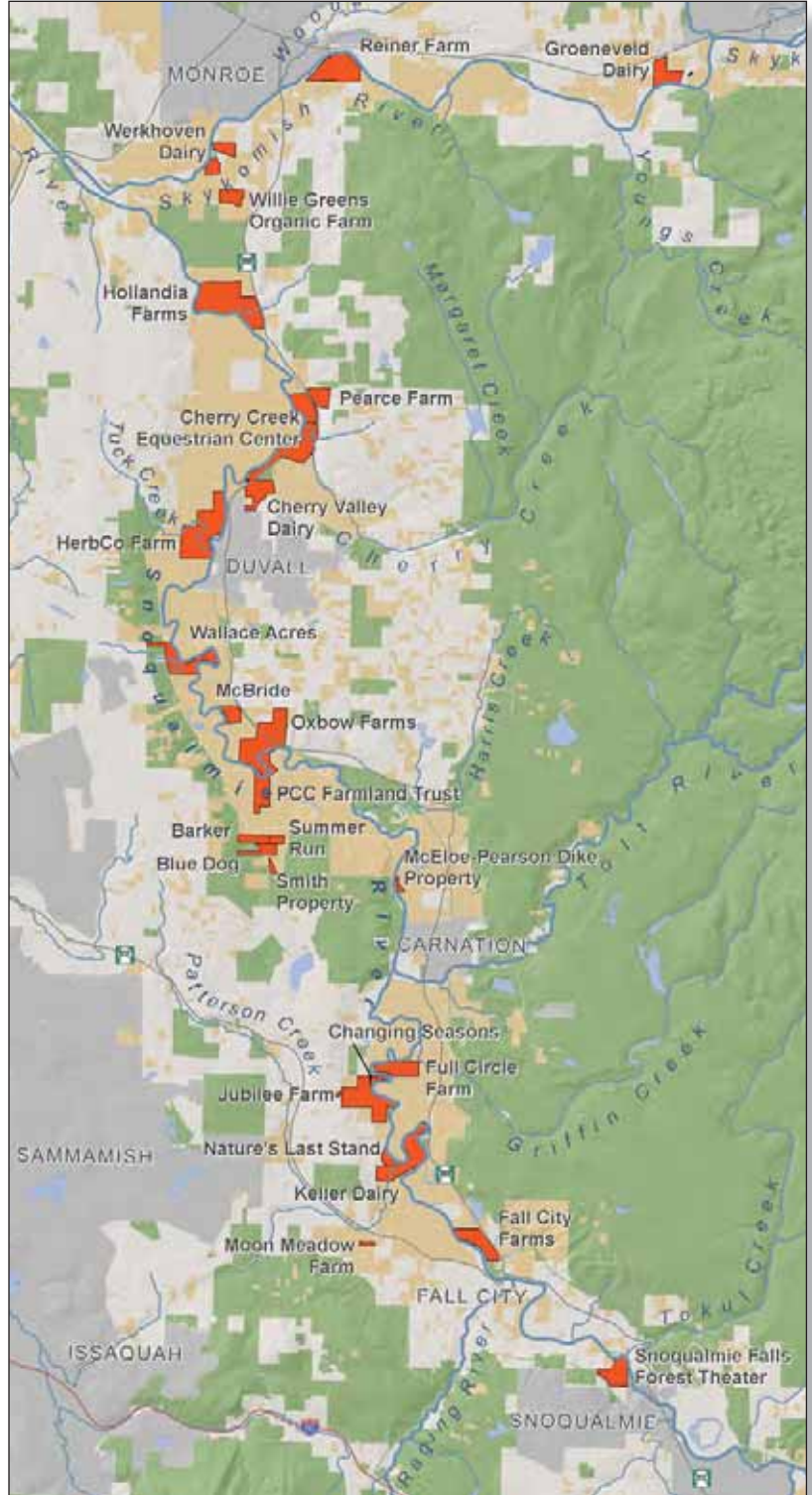


# Snoqualmie Valley Restoration Projects

“What candy does fresh fennel taste like?” asked farmer Luke Woodward of Oxbow Farm. Standing around a table of recently harvested organic produce, the middle school students took turns smelling and tasting the fennel, and then came to a unanimous answer to his question: black licorice. None of them had ever tried raw fennel before. This was just one of many interesting facts that the 20 YMCA volunteers and their mentors picked up during our Saturday of restoration work at Oxbow Farm in the Snoqualmie Valley. Arriving at 10am with their donuts and bagels, the volunteers showed even more eagerness for grubbing out blackberry roots than for devouring their tasty breakfast.

In addition to invasive plant removal, the YMCA kids received a tour of the farm and a talk about sustainable farming from farmer Luke. Afterward, they helped harvest an entire field of leeks that was about to be removed to make way for a convex mound of land known as a “critter pad” – a place where animals can take shelter at a higher elevation when the Snoqualmie River floods. On our way out, we received armloads of fresh leeks, squash, and carrots to take back to Seattle with us. “I never knew that farms existed this close to Seattle,” said one young volunteer, “and now I just want to spend the rest of the day out here instead of heading back to the city.”

The following weekend, more than 30 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members from Full Circle Farm and community volunteers showed up to plant trees along the Snoqualmie River at the Full Circle property in the Ames Creek Basin, part of the PCC Farmland Trust program. This event was held in cooperation with the Helping Hands/Experience Farming Project launched by the Cascade Harvest Coalition. For information on more upcoming Stewardship Partners volunteer events, contact Stacey Gians at [sg@stewardshippartners.org](mailto:sg@stewardshippartners.org).



map: Terra GIS

*Stewardship Partners continues to expand our restoration work with farmers in the Snoqualmie Valley*

# Pioneering the Future, Helping Communities Manage Growth

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According to legend, in the 1800s, John Chapman (aka Johnny Appleseed) ventured west into what would become Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois – sowing apple seeds and nurturing peaceful relations between European American settlers and Native Americans. Similarly, in the summer of 2007, David Hymel and Steve Pruitt of Stewardship Partners ventured into the wilderness of West Eatonville – sowing seeds of Low Impact Development (LID) and bringing collaboration to a potentially contentious new development proposal.

West Eatonville is an Urban Growth Area (UGA) for the Town of Eatonville in southeast Pierce County. Eatonville is the only jurisdiction in the large geographical area between urban Tacoma and Mount Rainier National Park that is allowed to increase its population significantly under current Growth Management planning. In the housing boom years leading up to present times, Eatonville has already seen numerous large housing additions, testing the capacity of the town to keep pace.

In 2007, a handful of landowners applied to have a portion of the West Eatonville UGA annexed into Eatonville – as a precursor to a large tract home development. Not all of the landowners favored the annexation, but would be forced into it by law. Town officials saw potential conflict brewing. Neighbors against neighbors and citizens against developers were all-too-familiar scenarios. The Town of Eatonville appealed for help and Stewardship Partners, along with the Nisqually River Foundation, stepped in with planning support funded by the Department of Ecology.

Throughout the balance of 2007, Stewardship Partners led public meetings and workshops with all of the stakeholders represented to explore alternative development scenarios. Guest speakers such as Wayne Carlson, from the engineering firm AHBL, and Curtis Hinman, from the WSU Water Quality Faculty, introduced LID and Smart Growth concepts. Discussions and visioning led to community standards for development, in an effort to create consensus on the future of the entire Urban Growth Area.

In 2008, the project shifted its focus to the task of reconciling the community vision of the entire UGA,

involving two dozen landowners and the development desires and plans of the half dozen annexing landowners. Over the course of the year, a master plan for the annexation area and development guidelines for the entire UGA were created. Stakeholders have given their support to both the master plan and the development guidelines. These concepts promote a pedestrian-friendly, livable neighborhood with rain gardens and open spaces – and opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

In 2009, the Town of Eatonville will consider the adoption of the proposed planning documents, along with appropriate zoning changes. At this point, everyone involved is on board, and we will see what fruit these planted seeds will bring.



*West Eatonville annexation concept site plan*



## Staff Update

Stewardship Partners has continued to expand, recently hiring a new Program Associate and adding a position for an Americorps intern.



*Becky Abbey*

institutional commitment to achieve climate neutrality.

She also conducted research in Boulder, CO as an NSF grantee studying the interactions between freshwater biota, trace metals, and natural organic material in freshwater environments. A recipient of the Fulbright Grant, Becky spent the last year in Indonesia teaching high school

**Becky Abbey**, our new Program Associate, has worked on a variety of environmental conservation projects. She graduated with honors from Pomona College in 2007, where she studied Biology and Environmental Analysis. After being elected as President of the Environmental Quality Committee, she led the college to sign an

English and volunteering at the Sunbear Reserve and Education Center on Borneo. In addition to conservation work, Becky is passionate about backpacking, climbing and traveling.



*Stacey Gianas*

Stacey graduated from University of Washington in 2008, where she studied Conservation Biology with a certificate in Restoration Ecology. She graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2004 with a degree in scientific photography. In her free time, she enjoys drawing and painting.

**Stacey Gianas**, Americorps intern, is already well versed in environmental restoration work and project implementation through her experiences with non-profit, city, and academic conservation groups. She recently completed a contract to identify, map, and prioritize restoration needs on nature preserves across western Washington.



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# Message from the Chair

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What motivated its founders to start Stewardship Partners 10 years ago? Steve Buri and I had crisscrossed the state for months in a political campaign, which ended suddenly in the September primary. This had been my first serious exposure to rural Washington and my conservationist soul was stirred by what wonderful stewards almost all agriculturalists we met really were. But they were also anything from wary to angry about attempts by “outsiders” to tell them what to do on their land. At that time, the salmon issue was heating up, spotted owls were in full cry, and much of environmentalism was about doing battle.

There were positive exceptions, of course, like the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land and Long Live the Kings. But nobody was directly addressing the mistrust between landowners and governments or the non-profits trying to improve land-use practices. We set out on this bridge-building mission early in 1999, and project by project, learned how to become a catalyst for a new cooperative model.

In addition to cooperation, our other focus was that this new organization should serve as a catalyst for local action, moving in to stimulate new life in existing entities, and to develop models that others would follow without further stimulation, because they made such good sense. This “leverage” means that our staff of three has created tremendous sustained activity in the Nisqually watershed, a growing number of farmers repairing habitat in the Snoqualmie valley, and more than 100 vineyards, farms, corporate campuses and parks certified as Salmon Safe. As one of our major donors put it, “Stewardship Partners is one of those rare non-profits where you make an investment in something, not just a donation.”

All of this is very gratifying, of course, but would not be happening without the wonderful help of our Sustaining Partners, Supporting Partners, private and public funders, and others who have helped and encouraged us along the way. Thank you!

## Newsletter Contributors



Chris Bayley, *Chair*  
David Burger, *Executive Director*  
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David Hymel, *Sustainable Building Program Manager*  
Becky Abbey, *Program Associate*  
Stacey Gianas, *Americorps Intern*

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