

The Stewardship Messenger

RAC Becomes Stewardship Partners

When this organization was established in 1999 the original name Resource Action Council (RAC) was created without a particular niche in mind or clear picture of what the organization would look like. Once our niche was firmly established, the name Stewardship Partners was born to better reflect who we are and what we do. We are working to create replicable models illustrating how landowners can be good stewards of their land. Often all they need is a little assistance to complete an environmental project that meets or exceeds the current regulatory authority. As the name implies, this can only be achieved by creating partnerships between landowners and communities. Our new tagline is "Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment". This reflects our passion and keeps us focused on our mission which remains the same.

We are actively seeking ways to increase incentives for best management practices on private working landscapes. You will read later how a group of stakeholders are aiming to achieve this in the Nisqually River watershed. If we are truly going to recovery salmon populations and conserve the environment we must embrace the families that work and live in these watersheds.

We have narrowed our focus to four projects which when complete and documented will be working models for others to learn from. These are located in the

Nisqually watershed, Okanogan, Snoqualmie and the Skykomish.

To celebrate our past accomplishments and to introduce our new name, Stewardship Partners held an open house on February 7th. Over 75 people attended, viewing maps and displays on past and current projects and getting a chance to meet the board of directors and staff.

We're proud to unveil the first issue of the *Stewardship Messenger*, a biannual newsletter that will provide you with updates on projects and provide information on issues dealing with the environment and landowners in the northwest.

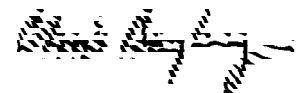
A Message from the Chair

I am particularly glad to welcome Heather Redman and Elliot Marks as new Stewardship Partners board members. You may read about them below. The nominating committee led by Karen Lane and Dana Rasmussen has helped us identify areas for board development, and these new members have the experience and competence to meet those needs and add general strength to our efforts.

Thanks to our financial supporters, old and new, who make Stewardship Partners possible. You will now see us build on this individual and corporate support to involve foundations in our longer term projects, particularly in the Nisqually. We will work hard to demonstrate the importance of landowner based conservation, and build those "replicable models" we have talked about since the start.

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STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS



Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

Lower Snoqualmie Project Begins Second Year

The Lower Snoqualmie Project began in April, 2001 with a landowner's vision of improving habitat in the Snoqualmie Valley. The past twelve months have been exciting ones for the project and last August, Stewardship Partners hired Project Coordinator, Rebecca Benjamin. Her focus has included building relationships, coordinating restoration projects, determining the best niche for Stewardship Partners in the watershed, and seeking additional funding. Amongst the most rewarding accomplishments of the past year are the volunteer restoration events at Oxbow Farm in Duvall.



Through a partnership with Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force and with financial support from King County's Small Change for a Big Difference grant, we have completed two volunteer riparian restoration events. A Washington Conservation Corps crew removed invasive blackberries along the oxbow then volunteers gathered to plant the reclaimed areas with native trees and shrubs. Volunteers braved bitter cold rain in December and came out to plant in the snow in March! Their involvement and contributions brought the project to life and we are looking forward to holding more volunteer events in the coming year.

In addition to volunteer events, Stewardship Partners has built relationships and partnerships with organizations and agencies over the past year. These relationships are enhancing our ability to manage the Snoqualmie Project into the future. Our vision is to expand the work we are doing beyond our pilot site to other oxbows in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley. With

this focus in mind, a new work plan will guide our activities through next April. The focus areas include:

1. Researching existing information about oxbow channels in the Snoqualmie.
2. Creating and implementing monitoring protocol for oxbow channels in the watershed to determine habitat suitability for salmonids.
3. Beginning an educational curriculum and pilot program for field trips to Oxbow Farm.
4. Implementing additional restoration projects at Oxbow Farm and providing matching funds for both restoration and monitoring projects being carried out by other organizations.

We are particularly excited about expanding our efforts to additional properties with oxbows in the Valley. Interested landowners can contact Rebecca Benjamin at rb@stewardshippartners.org. If you are interested in planting trees, look for fall event dates on our web site later this summer www.stewardshippartners.org.



Volunteers plant along the oxbow on the Snoqualmie River

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Nisqually River Glacier to Sound Conservation Corridor Plan

Conservationists, farmers, tribal members, a power company, a former Governor, and community residents are coming together to conserve the Nisqually watershed. This will be done by linking the Mount Rainier National Park to the Nisqually River Wildlife Refuge via a Glacier to Sound Conservation Corridor that will enable landowners to conserve the entire watershed, protect agricultural and forest lands, enhance critical habitat and water quality, and maintain a working landscape.

Between the park and the refuge, about 56% of the watershed's half million acres are privately owned. These private lands produce timber, agricultural commodities, and even hydroelectric power. Due to responsible private stewardship and public policy decisions the Nisqually remains one of the least developed rivers in the Puget Sound system. For this reason, we need to focus our efforts on conserving habitat. Unfortunately, our window to do that is closing fast. Once small towns in the watershed are becoming small cities. A planned highway could introduce more homes and supporting infrastructure. Increasingly private land between the glacier and the sound are being considered for housing and commercial use. These development pressures could jeopardize the watershed's water quality, wildlife habitat, and ultimately the continued forestry and agricultural use of certain land.

Diverse stakeholders support a plan to ensure that does not happen. The Nisqually Glacier to Sound Conservation Corridor plan will conserve the watershed's integrity, protect certain habitat, encourage continued agricultural and forest uses on private lands, and provide landowners with incentives to develop their property consistent with voluntary, low impact guidelines they themselves will help write.

The Corridor will be built utilizing the strengths of six different organizations. Stewardship Partners will

provide overall project management. It's executive director and it's board's project committee, will meet regularly with the other five organizations to ensure budgets are maintained, objectives are met and that information is being exchanged between the groups. It will also ensure that donors receive regular reports comparing objectives with completed work. The Nisqually River Council, a volunteer group established by the Washington State Legislature in 1987 and comprised of federal, state, local and tribal representatives will ensure the Corridor plan reflects local priorities and meets the needs of landowners who are trying to employ science based resource management practices. The Nisqually Tribe will establish a geographic information system (GIS) station and spearhead the development of a habitat management plan. The Nisqually River Land Trust will lead efforts to inventory and categorize all public and private property within the Corridor. Associated General Contractors will assist in developing voluntary, low impact construction standards. It is anticipated, but not yet confirmed, that the National Park Service will organize all public outreach activities.

The Corridor will be developed in five phases. Phase I will take 24 months to complete, has 10 objectives and will produce the following 6 tangible products. First, the 1987 river management plan will be updated to include the entire watershed. Second, a habitat management plan will be written. Third, all streams and tributaries will be inventoried and prioritized for restoration. Fourth, all property in the Corridor will be inventoried, categorized and certain parcels will be appraised. Fifth, low impact construction and architectural standards will be adopted as will incentives for their use. Finally, the scientific data and initial activity produced in Phase I will develop a science based, community accepted budget and plan for Phases II through IV that will be described in our next newsletter.



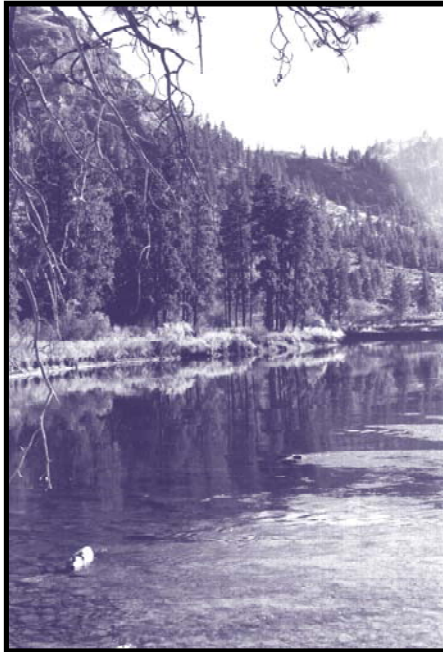
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BPA recommends action for the Okanogan Project

Stewardship Partners has been working with landowners and Central Washington University (CWU) to conserve the last roadless reach of the Okanogan River. The landowners want to see the property conserved while this is still possible. CWU has



been looking for a field research station for the last three decades. Their first attempt in the Kittitas area was blocked by the County Commissioners who believed there were higher value uses for the land. That piece of property was eventually sold and portions placed into a conservation easement. This property offers students a plethora of study topics ranging from forest ecology to archaeology. Earlier this year CWU addressed the Okanogan County Commissioners questions and concerns. These questions were related to a maintenance and operation plans and how CWU intended to pay in-lieu of taxes.

Stewardship Partners and CWU applied for a grant from BPA to fund the acquisition and biological survey. Columbia Basin Fish and

Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) is a consortium of federal and state agencies and the tribes that reviews the proposals along with the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP). ISRP gave a favorable review with some questions that were addressed. CBFWA reviewed the proposal and gave it a "Recommended Action". This essentially means that they believe the project should be funded but not in this round of funding. The main reason the project did not receive the "Priority" status was due to the absence of endangered species on the property. The area is one of the most concentrated spawning areas for fall chinook and is used by several wildlife species as a link between two adjacent wildlife areas managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The Upper Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group has been very supportive of the project along with Colville Tribes, Methow Conservancy, Okanogan Lands Council, BLM, Nature Conservancy, TPL, WDFW and several others.

CWU is actively seeking funding from various sources. We will continue to support the landowners in their efforts and provide CWU with funding sources and opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

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Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

Stewardship Partners Welcomes New Board Members



Stewardship Partners is proud to welcome Elliot Marks and Heather Redman as new members of our team. Mr. Marks has been with The Nature Conservancy for more than 20 years as the Washington State Director for 20 years and now is the Vice President of the Northwest & Nevada Division. Prior to joining the Conservancy, he served as special assistant for natural resources and legislative assistant to Governor Dan Evans. Mr. Marks is co-founder and past president of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, a group that has secured more than \$320 million in new state funding for critical wildlife habitat. He is also founding chairman of the Seattle Rotary Environment

Committee. He currently serves on the steering committee for Puget Sound Waterways, a coalition of businesses, conservation groups, and public agencies advocating for salmon habitat in Puget Sound. Mr. Marks has a law degree and a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley, and a master's of divinity degree from the Graduate Theological Union.

Heather Redman currently serves as Managing Director of Summit Power NW, LLC, a power plant development company. In addition, Ms. Redman serves on several boards of directors and boards of advisors of high technology companies. With her family, Ms. Redman also founded Western Land Restoration LLC, which advises landowners of large parcels of rural or wild land.

Ms. Redman has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, finance and corporate strategy. Prior to joining Summit, Ms. Redman held the position of Executive Vice President at AtomShockwave, and prior to that, Senior Vice President at each of AtomFilms, Getty Images and PhotoDisc, Inc. with responsibility for mergers and acquisitions and financings (including both public offerings of debt and equity and private financings). She led the negotiations for the successful sale of Atom to Shockwave and PhotoDisc to Getty, and negotiated many acquisitions on the buy side while at Getty and AtomFilms. In addition, Ms. Redman has been responsible for substantial operational groups, including all product acquisitions at Atom, and acted as co-COO at Atom. Prior to joining industry, Ms. Redman practiced high technology corporate law for six years.



Ms. Redman has served on the Board of Directors of the Washington Software Alliance and the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association. She holds a law degree (with distinction) from Stanford University, and served as a judicial clerk for the Hon. J. Jerome Farris of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Reed College.