

Sound WAVES

Communities use pieces of PIE to protect the Sound

The Puget Sound Action Team's Public Involvement and Education program funds community projects to help improve the health of Puget Sound

Throughout Puget Sound, people are involved in many actions to protect and restore the water and life in the Sound. Since 1987, the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) program has funded many of these actions, which are as varied as the sea life in Puget Sound.

PIE projects involve scuba divers, kayakers, stormwater managers, site developers, professional builders, do-it-yourselfers, habitat restorers and owners of boats, horses and creek-side property.

PIE contractors coordinate water festivals, publish history books, create demonstration farms, build rain gardens, restore streams, monitor orcas and educate and involve thousands of people every year.

"The PIE program is successful because it funds local groups to address local priorities in a cooperative approach. It builds community and helps meet the challenges of growth and land development in the region," said **Mary Knackstedt**, education specialist with the **Puget Sound Action Team**.

"Sixteen years of PIE work has helped join people to nature in a shared sense of place," Knackstedt added. "People with a



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center photo
Student interns from Cleveland and Franklin high schools conduct water quality tests on Taylor Creek—a PIE project managed by the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

strong connection to nature and to their community provide a vision that guides protection efforts in Puget Sound. Our PIE partners open up diverse opportunities for involvement in activities. They reach out to people and connect them to a common goal—to protect a very special place, Puget Sound."

A launching pad for innovation

PIE fosters connections throughout the Puget Sound basin. Since 1987, the legislature has allocated \$6 million for nearly 400 PIE projects that have helped set the standard for community-based education in the Puget Sound area and have provided models for other regions throughout the United States.

"PIE is a launching pad for innovation," Knackstedt said. "The Action Team uses PIE funding to attract groups with the ability to turn good ideas into reality in their community."

For example, low impact development (LID) is a new approach to managing stormwater. The Action Team chose LID as a focus this funding cycle to help communities protect habitat as they accommodate growth. Three of our 12 current contractors are forging new ground with these approaches in three very different ways, each tailored to their community's unique needs.

A life of their own

PIE has spawned several projects that are now established as key players in the protection of Puget Sound. A handful of these success stories are described on page 9. Others such as **Water Watchers**, the **Tacoma Enviro-Challenger program**, **Puget Sound Restoration Fund** and many more are still actively working to educate and engage people in this region.

This issue of **Sound Waves** is dedicated to our many PIE partners, past and present, who use education to meet the challenges of growth in Puget Sound and its effect on the ecosystem of the Sound.

PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM

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PIE celebrates 16 years of protecting Puget Sound

The Public Involvement and Education (PIE) program's approach is to support and encourage communities to design and carry out projects to meet local needs. PIE funding supports projects that educate and involve citizens in protecting Puget Sound water quality and biological resources.

Every two years, the Action Team tackles a set of priority issues from the long-range vision for Puget Sound described in the **Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan**. Those priorities become the focus of two-year **Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plans**. State law requires the Action Team to develop, implement and track the progress of the activities outlined in the two action-planning documents.

The Action Team sends out a request for proposals to solicit education and public involvement activities that addresses the priorities in the work plan. A citizens' advisory group helps select the projects to be funded.

The spirit of PIE

The lessons of past PIE projects guide the PIE program today. Through the years, the Action Team has managed hundreds of education projects and has worked with many partners to protect Puget Sound. This experience has shaped the spirit of PIE and has produced the following guidelines for education projects:

- Instill an ethic that values and protects Puget Sound as a treasure.
- Realize that a healthy Sound is in everyone's best interest, moving beyond "us versus them."
- Foster cooperation among the public, private and educational sectors.
- Promote a sense of place.
- Involve people; put them in charge of decisions that lead to local action.
- Establish clear goals and objectives and evaluate progress.



Residents of the Phinney Ridge neighborhood in Seattle learn about sustainable landscaping methods through a course offered by Seattle Parks last year. PIE helped to fund this eight-workshop educational program that also included green building concepts.

- Reflect the diversity of past and present cultural values.

The lessons learned from PIE help local citizens become more effective educators and often opens doors for new opportunities as well.

"The PIE process has been an invaluable springboard to help me leverage other funds, build new relationships with program partners and learn about the whole proposal process," said **Alayne Blicke** director of **Horses for Clean Water**, a past PIE fund recipient.

Action Team projects

PIE funds also support projects managed by Action Team staff. Every two years, Action Team science staff compile Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program and other research data into a report, **Puget Sound's Health**. PIE provides the funds to print and distribute this report.

PIE funds student scholarships to the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference. In addition, the program funds projects related to urban sprawl, low impact development, shellfish, derelict gear removal and aquatic nuisance species.

PIE funding history

The legislature allocates PIE funding through the Centennial Clean Water Fund, which is supported primarily from taxes on tobacco products. In the summer of 2003, the Action Team plans to

send out a request for proposals for new projects that will get underway in the spring of 2004. Although PIE provides funding for local groups, it is not a grant program. PIE recipients become partners with the Action Team and carry out their projects as contractors.

"The hardest part of the PIE program is turning away good projects," said Mary Knackstedt, education specialist with the Puget Sound Action Team. "And, unfortunately, the funding pie has shrunk significantly through the years."

When PIE began in 1987, lawmakers provided \$1.1 million for projects each biennium, but the fund has eroded to less than 64 percent of the original amount. The Action Team receives requests far in excess of the \$700,000 allocated in recent funding cycles. In the current round of funding, the Action Team received project proposals totaling almost \$2.5 million dollars.

In spite of funding limitations, the PIE program continues to be an effective and positive tool to bring together local citizens, businesses, governments and environmental groups in locally driven projects.

Since its inception, PIE has brought many communities together and reached hundreds of thousands of Puget Sound residents in innovative efforts to protect the Sound.

Anyone for PIE?

Almost anyone can apply for PIE funding, with the exception of state and federal agencies. This summer, the Action Team plans to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the next round of PIE funding—**Round 14**.

Action Team staff and its advisory members will select projects in the fall. Contractors will start their projects or programs in early spring 2004.

If you have an idea for a project and wish to be on our mailing list for project proposals, e-mail your name and e-mail address to gwilliams@psat.wa.gov or call (360) 407-7336. For additional information about PIE funding, visit our website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound.

News From Around Puget Sound

► PIERCE COUNTY

In November 2002, the **Puget Creek Restoration Society**, a recipient of PIE funding, brought together neighborhood volunteers and students from the University of Puget Sound. The volunteers and students helped Cathy Corrado's class of hearing-



Action team photo

impaired students at the **Tacoma School District's Birney Elementary** learn about Puget Creek and help restore it. The students were excited to be at the creek and, through sign language, asked many questions regarding the kinds of fish and wildlife that live in and visit Puget Creek. Scott Hansen, of the Puget Creek Restoration Society took the students on an instructional tour of Puget Creek and answered their numerous questions. Later, the students worked in partnership with the adult volunteers to dig holes to transplant plants along the stream to help restore the stream's habitat. Many of the students worked with shovels taller than their own height. All enjoyed the work and learning. Contact **Scott Hansen**, Puget Creek Restoration Society, (253) 845-6578.

► SAN JUAN COUNTY

A group of local citizens, a high school science class, **People for Puget Sound**, the **Samish Indian Nation** and a team of scientists are working together to protect and restore Deer Harbor's unique estuary, harbor and contributing watershed (Fish Trap Creek) on **Orcas Island**. Deer Harbor was once the site of an Indian fishing village and home to many marine species. Past agricultural practices altered the watershed, leaving less water to flow into the estuary. A bridge installation in the 1970s across the mouth of the estuary changed the composition of the estuary significantly, decreasing the water flow and tidal flushing. The local group

adopted a broad vision to restore natural functions to the stream, estuary, harbor and shoreline and re-establish salmon, shiner perch, oysters, forage fish, herring and other marine species that historically lived there. Contact: **Isabel Athmann**, Project Coordinator, REED, (360) 376-2208.

► ISLAND COUNTY

The **Island County Marine Resources Committee** (MRC) will begin enlisting shoreline landowners of **Camano Island** as shore stewards this year. The program's goal is to help shoreline residents learn about the natural processes at work on their beaches and how to play an active, positive role in creating and maintaining healthy shorelines. Landowners will learn from a booklet and website and may choose to attend workshops and field trips. Beach watcher volunteers will make house calls to answer specific questions. Landowners who pledge to follow a set of guidelines for shoreline living will receive a certificate and have the option to purchase a sign for their yard declaring them to be shore stewards. The Island County WSU Cooperative Extension Beach Watchers program is a partner in the program. As the pilot project on Camano Island develops, the MRC hopes to expand it to all of **Island County**. Contact: **Brittany Stromberg** at britts@wsu.edu.

► SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The population of Dungeness crabs along **Snohomish County's** shorelines appears to be healthy, and the **Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee** (MRC) wants to ensure that it stays that way. The MRC, a citizens' group working to protect Snohomish County's marine resources, is developing a long-term Dungeness Crab Stewardship Plan. The MRC is working with local organizations and individuals to develop the plan, to be completed this spring. Dungeness crabs are an important commercial, recreational and tribal fishery in Puget Sound, with 7.7 million pounds harvested between 1999 and 2000. Citizen input and concerns about dramatic increases in harvest drove the MRC's decision to develop the plan. Development activities and pollution have been taking a toll on Dungeness crabs and many other nearshore species. Contact: **Kirby Johnson**, (425) 776-2419 or kirbjill@gte.net, or visit the website at www.co.snohomish.wa.us/mrc.htm.

► THURSTON COUNTY

The **Nisqually Reach Nature Center** is an all-volunteer organization that has provided marine environmental education in south Puget Sound since 1982, specializing in hands-on learning opportunities for students. Through the visionary efforts of board members, funding from the **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge** and a small PIE award of \$3,000, the Nature Center hired two AmeriCorps members to help expand and strengthen programming which, in turn, generated significant new revenue and increased membership. The **Russell Family Foundation** and the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** provided an additional \$30,000 in grants to the Nature Center to renovate the exhibit room, add two new aquarium exhibits, upgrade office and lab facilities, collaborate with the **Nisqually Tribe** in monitoring an intertidal restoration site, and begin discussions with area colleges on future partnerships. Come see what PIE helped create by visiting the Nature Center, located at Luhr Beach on the west shore of the Nisqually River delta. Contact: (360) 459-0387 or www.nisquallyestuary.org.

► CLALLAM COUNTY

The topic of stormwater management has recently dominated the agendas of many public meetings of local governments and non-governmental organizations in **Clallam County**. Last March, in anticipation of this public discussion, **Pacific Woodrush** (a PIE grant recipient) designed its first seminar in the Exploring the Watershed series to focus on stormwater. The seminar generated enough interest to start a small group of interested citizens to form the **Clallam Stormwater Management Coalition**, dedicated to providing outreach, education and support for responsibly managing stormwater. The coalition is hoping to expand its membership and develop methods to effectively inform citizens and elected officials about the harm that poorly managed stormwater can cause. As eastern Clallam County continues its rapid pace of development, the coalition will play an important role as a forum for education and action around stormwater issues. Contact: **Mary Peck**, (360) 417-0980, woodrush@earthlink.net.

PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM LOCAL LIAISONS:

Island County:
Harriet Beale
(360) 407-7307

Thurston and Mason counties:
Stuart Glasoe
(360) 407-7319

Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties:
Hilary Culverwell
(206) 721-4377

San Juan County:
Ginny Broadhurst
(360) 738-6122

Clallam, Kitsap and Jefferson counties:
John Cambalik
(360) 582-9132

Pierce and King counties:
Kathy Taylor
(253) 333-4920

Current PIE Projects

CLEAN BOATING CLEANS UP TIDE FLATS



Citizens for a Healthy Bay
Region served: **South Puget Sound**
PIE money awarded: **\$35,000**
Contact: **Lisa Lawrence**
(253) 383-2429

Pristine glacial water flows from Mt. Rainier and feeds the Puyallup River system. By the time the river hits heavily developed Commencement Bay in **Pierce County**, it is no longer pristine.

Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB) is helping to clean up this urban estuary by working with citizens, businesses and government agencies to protect, monitor and restore the bay. Using PIE funding, the group kicked off its Clean Boating/Clean Marina campaign last April at the Tacoma Dome Boat Show with a display and presentations.

CHB provided workshops on clean boating practices that protect water quality in Puget Sound and trained volunteers to detect and report pollution along the waterfront. Members handed out free kits containing items to better help boaters control oil and fuel spills including bilge pillows, fuel collars and absorbent pads.

Sea Scouts hosted CHB workshops to train young explorers, volunteers and parents.

"The workshop really paid off for the scouts," said **Lisa Lawrence**, CHB project coordinator. "They knew what to do when they saw a diesel discharge at a marina. They alerted the owner of the boat, reported the spill and started cleanup and containment of the pollution."

The Clean Boating/Clean Marina program is bringing EnviroStar, a program that rates and rewards businesses for environmentally friendly operation, to **Pierce County marinas**, starting with the Foss Waterway Marina in December 2002.

REMEMBER THE PAST, ENVISION THE FUTURE



Maxwelton Salmon Adventure
Region served: **Maxwelton Watershed on Whidbey Island**
PIE money awarded: **\$37,794**
Contact: **Nancy Waddell**
(360) 321-2581

The members of Maxwelton Salmon Adventure on **Whidbey Island** are working hard to include their neighbors in the sense of legacy they feel for the place they live.

Last fall, the group published *A Journey Through the Maxwelton Watershed*, a book about the natural and social history of the largest watershed on the island. The book is filled with photographs, illustrations, research and anecdotes from neighbors. It extends from glacial times to the present, while tracing native habitation, European settlement, logging, salmon recovery efforts and the wildlife of the watershed.

All 647 landowners and residents in the Maxwelton Watershed will receive a free copy of the book. **Ann Linnea**, a Whidbey Island resident, researched and wrote the book.

"It's been a joy to work with so many people who love the Maxwelton land and its history," Linnea said. "I hope this book will make people even more aware of the precious resource we have here, and unite old and new residents for continued stewardship of the watershed."

The history will also provide the basis for a curriculum on the watershed for fifth graders at **South Whidbey Intermediate School**. As part of their geology unit, students are studying the forces that have shaped the watershed—both natural and human—and will create a mural of the watershed's history at the end of their study.

Later this winter, Maxwelton Salmon Adventure will invite landowners to use the historical information in the book to form a vision for future watershed planning.

STUDENTS TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT WATERSHED HEALTH



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
Region Served: **Taylor Creek Watershed**
PIE money awarded: **\$37,625**
Contact: **Apryl Brinkley**
(425) 450-0207

The **Taylor Creek Watershed** project in **King County** teamed high school interns with more than 200 fourth and fifth-grade students and their teachers to learn about watershed processes, nonpoint pollution, development issues and habitat restoration.

"Our project brought schools and communities together in a common goal to protect the Taylor Creek Watershed," said **Apryl Brinkley** of the **Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center**. "The internship program, part of which is funded through PIE, helped earn us the Environmental Education Association of Washington Community Catalyst Award for 2001-2002!"

Experienced educators from the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center guide the teens in water quality test procedures and the tricky business of how to use fun, hands-on activities to engage the attention of 10-year olds. The teens will give the fifth graders watershed information to take home, information that has been translated into several languages spoken by residents in the diverse **Rainier Valley** community.

Students will collect water quality data for state and local agencies and will work with a local group, the **Friends of Deadhorse Canyon**, to restore healthy habitat in the creek.

This spring, the project will culminate in a block party celebration where students will share not only their knowledge of the

Current PIE Projects

watershed, but also the stewardship ethic they've developed through the course of the year with their families and friends in the community.

RESTORATION IS FOR EVERYONE



Action Team photo

Tacoma Neighborhood Network Center
Region served: **Pierce County**
PIE money awarded: **\$5,000**
Contact: **Scott M. Hansen**
(253) 845-6578

On a sunny day last November, a little girl looked longingly at **Puget Creek** and signed a question to a volunteer translator. The girl and her classmates of deaf and hard-of-hearing students from **Tacoma School District's Birney Elementary** were helping to plant native trees along the stream corridor. She asked if she could wade in the stream.

"I explained to her that wading would harm the delicate habitat so critical to the salmon we are fighting to restore in the creek," said **Scott Hansen**, coordinator for the project. "Then I escorted the kids to a big mud puddle to play in instead."

Sponsored by the **Tacoma Neighborhood Network Center**, the Puget Creek restoration project provides a fun and educational atmosphere for disabled people of all ages and disability types. People with hearing, sight and physiological disabilities learn what it takes both personally and by working together within the community to restore salmon in an urban stream.

The program has mobilized support from occupational therapists, translators and other professionals to provide specialized tools and other assistance that will enable

people with a variety of disabilities to participate in restoration work.

The Tacoma Neighborhood Network Center is using the experience and insights from this project to create detailed guidelines on how to involve disabled people in salmon recovery and habitat restoration work throughout Puget Sound and elsewhere.

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN



Seattle Parks and Recreation
Region served: **Seattle**
PIE money awarded: **\$42,894**
Contact: **Caitlin Evans**
(206) 684-0877

Seattle residents in the **Phinney Ridge Neighborhood** learned how to live green through a series of eight workshops on sustainable landscaping and green building offered by Seattle Parks and Recreation last fall.

"It's been easy to fill up the workshops," said **Caitlin Evans**, coordinator for the project. "Some Seattle neighborhoods, such as Phinney Ridge, are more than 100 years old. A lot of people are remodeling and are hungry for ideas. It's a great opportunity to reach people with building and landscaping methods that protect the environment and that also save time and money."

In the sustainable landscaping classes, participants learned how to use fewer chemicals, choose the right plants, water wisely, prepare soil and design creative alternative ideas for stormwater.

The green building classes focused on using existing living spaces to the fullest extent, conserving water and energy, avoiding toxins and using products that reduce harm to the environment, contribute to a healthy indoor environment, and are made from recycled or low impact materials.

The Seattle Parks Department plans to repeat the series this spring. New on the

class list will be a two-part sustainable landscape design studio to start homeowners working on a master plan, and many of the classes will have new and improved class materials and information.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD



WSU Jefferson Cooperative Extension
Region Served: **Jefferson County**
PIE money awarded: **\$29,700**
Contact: **Katherine Baril**
(360) 379-5610, ext. 202

In **Jefferson County**, new homeowners are learning how to be good watershed neighbors. Realtors and **Washington State University Cooperative Extension** staff are working together to educate new neighbors about supplies of drinking water, locations of critical habitat and the steps new homeowners can take to protect local water and salmon resources.

Through the **Welcome to the Watershed Project**, realtors and Extension staff are developing information packets for agents to add to their sales information that will educate their clients about the local watershed.

"We've offered training classes for realtors during the past five years," said **Katherine Baril**, project coordinator. "It started with PIE funds from the Puget Sound Action Team, and we expand the program yearly. We have some agents that have taken the entire series and regularly call us to suggest new topics."

"You know, we realtors are educators too," said **Susan Miller**, an agent in **Port Townsend**, during one of the field trips. "We spend from 16 to 50 hours with each client. We explain how things work, where people can go for information, and how they can get involved in the community."

Continued on next page...

Current PIE Projects

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Continued from previous page

The project serves landowners, realtors and Cooperative Extension. The information packets give landowners information about how to protect wetlands, landscape drain-fields or design their homes without harming natural resources, such as neighborhood creeks and Puget Sound. Realtors get easier access to credible information. Staff from the extension office are able to reach a large number of people at a time when they are open to the information and may be looking for volunteer opportunities in their new community.

BUILDING HEALTHY SOIL



Washington Organic Recycling Council
Region served: **Soundwide**
PIE money awarded: **\$44,375**
Contact: **Connie Allison**
(360) 556-3926

During the next few months, building industry professionals will have several opportunities to learn how to protect soil and water quality at new construction sites. Workshops will help them understand the amount of organic content in soils as specified in the **Department of Ecology's Western Washington Stormwater Management Manual**.

In February and March, the Washington Organic Recycling Council will present six workshops around Puget Sound to train inspectors, realtors, property developers and land-use planners how to plan for and implement the new "Soil Quality and Depth" guidelines contained in the manual.

"Gardeners and farmers have long known the value of using compost to build good soil in their quest for healthy crops," said **Howard Stenn**, owner of a landscape

design firm and a workshop presenter. "We now know that good soil plays a significant role in managing stormwater and protecting the quality of streams and lakes."

Organic material improves the soil's capacity to hold and infiltrate water, filter out pollutants and support plant growth that protects soil from erosion. Common land development practices include scraping off or compacting topsoil and creating large areas of impervious surfaces or areas where water can't easily filtrate. Without an adequate area of healthy topsoil to absorb runoff and filter pollutants, stormwater from roads, rooftops and parking lots, flows into waterways where it can harm fish, shellfish and wildlife habitat.

TAKE A CRUISE...

BECOME A RESEARCHER



Port Townsend Marine Science Center
Region Served: **Northern Puget Sound**
PIE money awarded: **\$45,000**
Contact: **Judy D'Amore**
(360) 379-0370

When the **Port Townsend Marine Science Center's** 12-year school-based program to monitor water quality lost its funding in 1997, it clearly needed a new approach.

"Grant-funded programs are so vulnerable; we were looking for a way to resurrect the program and make it financially self-sustaining," said **Judy D'Amore**, the science center's project director. "We came up with the idea to support student monitoring through ecotourism. PIE provided a bit of a safety net this first year."

The water quality monitoring program is a creative collaboration of the Port

Townsend Marine Science Center and **James Norris**, fisheries scientist and owner of the research vessel **Mary Beth**.

The **Menzies Project** turns daily cruise participants, including local 8th grade students, into members of a research team. PIE has helped to fund the development of the research agenda, the student curriculum, and a database website that documents the research data, as well as some monitoring equipment, and part of the vessel charter for student monitoring.

Cruises venture from the **Port Townsend** waterfront to as far away as Protection Island and Sequim Bay. In addition to monitoring water quality, passengers now help map eelgrass beds and other marine habitats with an underwater camera, conduct surveys of seals and shorebirds, identify plankton, and count and measure shrimp and Dungeness crabs. While collecting scientifically useful data on the marine environment, passengers learn all about marine research and resource issues.

In the future, the Menzies Project hopes to be fully self-supporting by attracting cruise participants who pay modest fares to take part in this fun and unique experience.

REINING IN THE RAIN



City of Bellingham
Region served: **Whatcom County**
PIE money awarded: **\$32,000**
Contact: **Renee La Croix**
(360) 676-6850 ext. 301

A goal of PIE is to encourage communities to promote low impact development (LID) techniques. LID is an innovative approach to stormwater management that makes use of natural site elements such as soil and plants that help clean and infiltrate stormwater, rather than letting it run off-site.

The **City of Bellingham** used PIE funding to teach contractors, architects, landscape design companies, engineering firms,

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government staff and citizens how to rein in the rain with these techniques.

To illustrate how businesses and homeowners could better manage stormwater runoff and protect lakes, streams and Puget Sound, the city built a "rain garden" in the parking lot behind city hall. The rain garden intercepts stormwater runoff that had previously drained into Whatcom Creek.

The city also sponsored an LID workshop in October. The 130 participants at the workshop spent the day learning from low impact experts and designing their own development sites.

"Participants gave **Rick Dubrow**, a workshop presenter and owner of A-1 Builders in Bellingham, one of the highest evaluations for his impassioned message on doing well by doing good," said Renee LaCroix, environmental specialist with the city. "His presentation inspired many of us to think outside the box."

Participants at the workshop were the first to view the video, "Reining in the Rain: Low Impact Development and Sustainable Building Practices." The video depicts low impact projects in the Whatcom County area and includes interviews with site developers. The video aired on several local channels and is available at libraries in Whatcom County.

The city staff hopes to capitalize on the project's momentum by offering a resource packet along with the video to contractors at the city's planning, building services and public works' counters. The city also plans to convene a group to design a LID ordinance.

PROTECT WILDLIFE, CUT PROPERTY TAXES

**WSU Cooperative Extension
King/Pierce counties**

Region served: **King and Pierce counties**
PIE money awarded: **\$42,130**
Contact name: **Paul Racette**
(206) 205-3171

**The Conservation Tools Education
Program** seeks to protect areas critical

to threatened salmon through increased landowner use of conservation tools. To achieve this goal, **Washington State University Cooperative Extension** invited

streamside landowners to learn more about the benefits of healthy riparian lands and about what they can do to protect their lands.

Landowner workshops take place in salmon-bearing watersheds from Vashon Island to the Nisqually River. Landowners learn how conservation easements, land trusts, and the Public Benefit Rating System can help them reduce property taxes and preserve their land to benefit salmon and other wildlife.

Landowners may also request site visits, during which they learn more about how their stream, shoreline and woodland properties qualify for land conservation programs.

WSU Cooperative Extension trains watershed stewards to help educate landowners during workshops and field visits. As of November 2002, stewards had visited 20 landowners, and provided site maps, measured riparian buffers and assisted with applications for the Public Benefit Rating System. The stewards provide an important link between landowners and the organizations that offer land conservation services.

"Working on the projects for conservation tools has put my education from the Land Water Stewardship class to practical use," said **Susan Titus**, a volunteer trained through the program. "The Puget Sound region is growing, and we must do everything we can to preserve our open spaces."

RUSH HOUR AND RESTORATION

Society for Ecological Restoration NW

Region served: **Soundwide**
PIE money awarded: **\$17,000**
Contact: **Nancy Hahn**
(206) 547-9641

Most of us would be hard-pressed to come up with anything good about rush-hour traffic in the Puget Sound basin, but it does provide a captive audience with nothing better to do than tune into the radio. **The Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest** targeted those listeners to hear 40 inspirational stories of citizens working to protect and restore the environment in the Puget Sound basin.

Last spring, commuters listening to The Mountain, KMTT-FM based in **Seattle**, heard about divers retrieving ghost nets that snare Puget Sound marine life, bankers planting trees to restore salmon habitat, and farmers turning cow manure into energy.

The broadcasts led listeners beyond admiration into action. They were invited to join the ranks of volunteers to help restore the Northwest environment. Recruitments for trail clearers, trash pickers, invasive weed pullers and kayak pollution patrollers let listeners know that they, too, can be a part of the restoration movement in communities throughout Puget Sound.

"Having our event highlighted on Restoration Radio was helpful. I have had two neighbors tell me that they heard me on the radio," said **Bonnie Miller** of the **Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance**. "I would venture to say that some of the people who heard the announcement will, at some time in the future, join one of our work parties."

In the eight short weeks they played, the broadcasts offered opportunities for 65,000 listeners to take action in their homes, neighborhoods and in their region to help protect and restore the environment.

BUILDING COMMUNITY- BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Pacific Woodrush

Region served: **Clallam County, North Olympic Peninsula**

PIE money awarded: **\$28,750**
Contact name: **Mary Peck**
(360) 417-0980

Pacific Woodrush had a very specific goal in mind when they proposed their project to develop community-based partnerships. The group wanted to foster neighbor-to-neighbor interaction and involvement, and to build and strengthen partnerships among residents, landowners and policymakers in the Siebert Creek watershed to protect that stream corridor.

From spring until early fall 2002, Pacific Woodrush organized a series of seven seminars, each focused on different topics related to stream health and designed to provide opportunities for involvement. A field trip

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PIE's Small Awards reap BIG rewards

Many environmental educators are experts at building partnerships and tapping into a variety of resources to keep their projects going one more year or one more month. To help leverage such projects, in 2001 the Puget Sound Action Team launched a new program—**Small Awards**. This program provides up to \$3,000 for projects and is often used to fund one part of a bigger project. The following are samples of small awards projects that, together with other funding and a lot of volunteer time and energy, help support actions to protect the Sound.

Orca Network

The **Orca Network** from **Whidbey Island** raises public awareness about the problems facing Puget Sound and surrounding ecosystems, with a focus on orca whales and their habitat. Projects include the Whale Sighting Network and Education Program.

The Small Awards program helped support an e-mail network that assists researchers in gathering data about the orcas' travels, and provides a service to



Photo of orcas courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

citizens who wish to increase their chances of observing their orca neighbors from the shoreline. Currently, the network has more than 600 participants in the U.S. and Canada, including researchers, government agencies, elected officials, environmental organizations and citizens who are interested in learning more about the whales and providing data to help with their survival.

To learn more about orcas and the whales of this region, visit the Orca Network website at: www.orcanetwork.org.

Smart Growth

The **Kitsap Smart Growth Coalition**—comprising government, business and community groups—has shown leadership by developing and promoting smart growth goals, with guiding principles to reduce the harm development can do to the environment. The coalition used its Small Award to fund a presentation on innovative stormwater techniques—just one of the many public presentations on sustainable growth the coalition hosted in its community during the past year.

Rediscovery in Puget Sound

A Small Award and funding from the **Tulalip Tribe** enabled **Adopt-a-Stream** to bring renowned educator **Thom Henley** from the **Rediscovery International Institute in British Columbia** to the **Northwest Stream Center in Everett**. Henley showed 25

teachers how to reach students with interactive games that nurture an appreciation of nature and explore the concepts of sustainable communities.

“Thom Henley’s instruction was outstanding and inspirational,” said **Thomas Murdoch**, executive director of the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation. “All the participants

agreed to put the training to use for their audiences, and to stimulate those audiences to take actions that benefit their watersheds and Puget Sound.”

Kiwanis for Kids

“This project should receive an award for doing the most on a shoestring budget,” said **Mary Knackstedt**, education specialist with the Action Team.

The **Kitsap Kiwanis Club** used their Small Award and other funding from the **Kitsap Public Utilities District** and **Kitsap Stream Team** to bring about 850

students from second grade through high school to Clear Creek in **Silverdale**. The students released salmon reared in classrooms, monitored the quality of the stream water and planted trees rescued by the native plant salvage program.

WSU Beach Watchers

The **Washington State University Beach Watchers** volunteer organization provides environmental education, monitoring and other stewardship opportunities for the **Island County** community. PIE pitched in support for two public events: **Sound Waters**—annual workshops that focus on Puget Sound issues and **Wonders of the Island**—a series of field trips designed to educate and develop an appreciation of island habitat.

Keeping an Eye on Eelgrass

Eelgrass is prime habitat in Puget Sound. Marine organisms of all kinds, including key species such as salmon and herring depend on it for shelter and food. It’s worthwhile to monitor eelgrass beds to make sure they remain healthy, but keeping a close eye on eelgrass requires a face mask and scuba gear.

The **Puget Creek Restoration Society** recruited divers to map and measure the beds located near the mouth of Puget Creek in **Pierce County**. Eelgrass has evolved to grow low in the intertidal zone, remaining underwater except for extremely low tides.

The society plans to use the information to educate the public about the value of eelgrass and further their goal of increasing this precious resource in Commencement Bay.

Small Awards in 2003-2005

The Small Awards program showed that a little money can go a long way when partners and volunteers are as dedicated and hardworking as those funded in 2001-2003.

Action Team staff plan to offer the Small Awards program again in 2003-2005 under a new name. Watch our website and listserv in early 2004 for details on the **Sound Environmental Education Demonstration (SEED)** program.

Past PIE projects: **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

The creativity, imagination and positive energy that generates most PIE projects often extends beyond the life of the PIE contract. When promising projects come to the Puget Sound Action Team, we try to get as much mileage out of them as possible. Projects that work in one community often move to other areas in the Puget Sound basin. Presented below are examples of several past projects that continue to flourish in this region:

Good Horsekeeping in Puget Sound

A typical horse makes 19,000 pounds of manure in a year. Improperly managed waste from horse farms can wash into streams and pollute water supplies and aquatic and shellfish habitat. In 1999, PIE funded Horses for Clean Water (HCW), a pilot project for educating horse owners about ways to reduce runoff from farms in **King County**.

Alayne Blicke, horse owner and director of HCW, designed and promot-



Action Team photo

ed workshops based on her own understanding of the lifestyle and concerns of horse owners. Blicke also wrote and published a manual, **Healthy Horses, Clean Water**, to accompany the workshops.

In 2001, PIE funds helped HCW expand into northern Puget Sound. In 2002, the Action Team pooled resources with the **Department of Ecology** and formed a partnership with conservation districts to sponsor workshops, farm tours and site visits to promote best management practices for horse owners in **Jefferson, Clallam, Mason, Thurston, Pierce, Kitsap, San Juan and Island counties**.

Students become teachers

It's exciting when PIE helps people of all ages grow and evolve in their work with the environment. When students become teachers, learning takes on a whole new dimension.

Students from the **Seabeck Elementary Alki Salmon Team in Kitsap County** are educating the public about the need for clean water and good habitat to sustain wild fish runs.

Jerry Zumdieck, a PTA mother, started the program in 2000 with PIE funding. Zumdieck and students from the Salmon Team took their show on the road and gave presentations to several schools. Students created booklets about salmon and provided advice on how to start a salmon team.

In 2001, the Kitsap County Commissioners named Zumdieck the Conservation Citizen of the Year and awarded the Salmon Team the Earth Day Award.

When property owners planned to sell some property for housing developments on the lagoon at the mouth of Seabeck Creek, Zumdieck and the Salmon Team sprang into action. They contacted their friend and biological advisor, Ron Hirschi, who put them in touch with the Trust for Public Land (TPL). They worked with TPL and several other partners to protect the 34.5-acre estuary and tidal spit, which, along with the five streams that empty into it, is prime chum, coho and chinook habitat.

Nick Holm, who is now 15, was a key mover in this project when he was in 4th grade and first joined the Salmon Team. His work to protect salmon habitat motivated him to write to Congress about salmon issues and has fueled his aspirations for a career in marine biology. He was the source of inspiration for the name of the lagoon the Salmon Team helped save—it's now officially "Nick's Lagoon."

Asian Pacific Islanders promote safe and sustainable harvest

In 2000, the Action Team provided funding to the **Indochinese Cultural and Service Center** and the **Korean Women's Association** to jumpstart an education campaign promoting safe and

sustainable harvest of shellfish by the Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities in **Pierce County**.

The project continues to flourish today. Youth leaders work with elders and community leaders to spread a message that resonates with the values in the API community—protection of the resource for future generations. A very active advisory group of API leaders and local and state government agency staff guides the work.

The program is a community resource for education on pollution prevention and the health risks related to seafood contaminated by mercury. The program is a model showing how government and the API community can work together to protect the health of citizens and marine resources.

Current PIE Projects

Continued from page 7

followed each seminar offering on-the-ground education.

The Exploring the Watershed seminars covered a variety of topics, including stormwater; salmon and water quality; small streams, nearshore and estuarine habitats; and decisions on land use. Participants learned what they could do on their land, or in their watershed, to reduce or minimize harm from activities by people.

As a result of the project, the **Clallam Stormwater Management Coalition** formed. (See page 3, Around the Sound-Clallam County.) In addition, a small group of volunteers organized around specific projects on Siebert Creek, including counting salmon redds, monitoring temperature, documenting stormwater using photographs and working on trails to reduce sedimentation in the stream.

"The large turnout at a recent watershed meeting is a testimony to the value of the project," said **Mary Peck**, coordinator for the project. "Now the people who attend bring a different level of questions and familiarity with watershed issues. Because of PIE, neighbors in the watershed are talking and working together."

Unless otherwise noted, the photos accompanying these current PIE projects are courtesy of the contractors.



PUGET SOUND'S HEALTH

The Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) is a coordinated effort among state, federal and local agencies to measure the health of Puget Sound's waters and resources. The program complements monitoring by local governments and citizen volunteers.



Research conference offers rare opportunity for students to network with scientists

If you are a student studying science in college, chances are you have few opportunities to learn how scientists exchange new information and discuss new findings. One way scientists share their findings is to attend research conferences.

This spring, college students from Canada and the United States will have a chance to present their research and network with scientists at the **2003 Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Research Conference** March 31 through April 3. This year, the conference takes on a cross-border partnership with Vancouver B.C. as the host city and Canadian and U.S. agencies serving as co-hosts. The theme is "Applying Science and Information to Sustainability in a Shared Transboundary Ecosystem."

Forty-three Canadian and United States students will give either oral or poster presentations at the conference. The best student presentations will receive merchandise and cash awards.



Action Team photo

Students at the 2001 Puget Sound Research Conference in Bellevue compare notes on the variety of session offerings.

United States students who participate in the international conference and who need help with the cost of attending will receive scholarships paid by the PIE fund to cover the \$110 student registration fee. Canadian student participants will receive scholarships from the conference co-sponsors. Additional scholar-

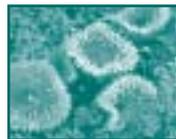
ships may be available depending on the level of sponsorship. All students may take advantage of the reduced student registration fee.

Conference organizers plan a special dinner for students to be sponsored by **Western Washington University's Huxley College of Environmental Studies**. Along with the dinner, a science career panel will give students the opportunity to meet with scientists from non-profit, business, tribal and government agencies to get advice on a variety of jobs in science fields.

For more information on the conference, check the Action Team website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound and follow the links to the 2003 Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Research Conference or call (800) 54-SOUND.

For more information on student activities and resources during the conference contact **Carmen Hranac**, University of Washington student, at carmenh@u.washington.edu.

March 31 - April 3



Westin Bayshore Hotel
Vancouver, B.C.

2003 GEORGIA BASIN/PUGET SOUND

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The **Puget Sound Water Team** and the **Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative** have teamed up to host an international conference this spring in Vancouver, B.C. to communicate research findings of importance to help ensure the sustainability of the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem.

Attendees will include scientists from government agencies, universities and consulting firms; natural resource managers and decision-makers; students and the public.

The conference features a distinguished group of invited speakers including **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, former director of the United Nations Environment Program; **Billy Frank, Jr.**, chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; **Stephen Hume**,

author and Vancouver Sun columnist and **Carl Safina**, marine scientist, author, winner of MacArthur 'genius' award.

For more details about the conference and to download a registration brochure, visit the Action Team's website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound. You can order a printed brochure by calling (360) 407-7311 or (604) 713-9532.

Get further details by joining the Action Team's information listserv (www.wa.gov/puget_sound). Contact **Pete Dowty** at (360) 407-7561 or (800) 54-SOUND (in Washington state) and/or e-mail **David Fraser** with Environment Canada at David.Fraser@ec.gc.ca.

Join us, contribute information and learn.

Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts marine fish farm regulations

In the 1990s, nearly a million non-native Atlantic salmon escaped from floating pens in Washington and Canadian waters. Because farm-reared salmon are not able to fend for themselves in the wild, most died after escaping. Fishermen also caught many of the escaped fish. Yet some of these fish strayed into more than 75 British Columbia streams.

Growers in British Columbia raised more than 100 million pounds of Atlantic salmon last year—10 times more than the eight farms located in Puget Sound. A typical farm has eight to 10 cages. Each cage can rear between 15,000 to 50,000 fish.

In 2001, the Washington state legislature, concerned about the accidental release of Atlantic salmon from net pens and their potential effects on native fish stocks, directed the **Department of Fish and Wildlife** to develop a program to minimize escapes.

"It took almost a year and a half of negotiations with interested and affected parties to reach consensus on the rules," said **Andy Appleby**, Fish and Wildlife's aquaculture coordinator. "I felt it was a very successful process."

On Dec. 7, 2002, the state **Fish and Wildlife Commission** adopted a rule

(Chapter 220-76 WAC) to require U.S. growers to report escaped fish and recapture them. Growers must mark all fish so that any escaped fish can be easily identifiable. Growers must also have plans in place to recapture escaped fish for each facility. The rule becomes effective in July 2003.

Fish and Wildlife can deny permits for fish farms that pose significant genetic, ecological or health risks. The commission also voted to prohibit farming of transgenic fish, which involves the transfer of genes from one species to another.

Fish and Wildlife may also establish an **Atlantic Salmon Watch Program**, an education program for fish farmers and an annual inspection program.

The agency cannot charge growers for removing fish found spawning in the wild that escape from enclosures, net pens or other rearing vessels.

For more information, contact Andy Appleby, Aquaculture Coordinator, Department of Fish and Wildlife, (360) 902-2663 or appleaea@dfw.wa.gov or view the department's fact sheet at <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/factshts/aquaculture.htm>.

Action Team approves 2003-2005 work plan

Members of the **Puget Sound Action Team** and **Council** met in October to review comments on the public review draft of the **2003-2005 Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan**. The Action Team approved the recommendations of the Council for changes to the draft plan based on public and agency comments.

Action Team staff then finalized the work plan and submitted it to Governor Locke and the legislature in December for their consideration during the current legislative session.

The two-year work plan is primarily a budget document. It contains actions submitted by state agencies that are funded by the legislature for activities to protect Puget Sound and that implement the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan*.

Most of this funding supports activities for state agencies including providing technical assistance to local governments, offering public education and involvement, and measuring long-term trends to identify and address threats to Puget Sound.

Thanks to all who took the time to review and comment on the draft work plan; your suggestions significantly improved this important document and the work it represents.

The work plan is available on our website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound. You can also order a print version by calling (360) 407-7313 or (800) 54-SOUND.

Puget Sound joins global study of marine protection

Worldwide, scientists and resource managers are evaluating marine environments to see how well marine habitats and species are being protected.

Locally, The Puget Sound Action Team will be compiling an inventory of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Washington State for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) MPA Center.

The Action Team will gather information about locations of protected areas, which agencies are managing them, goals and objectives of the area, and types of management restrictions that are in place.

The information will go into a national database that the public and resource managers can easily access. The goal is to provide a tool to see how much

marine resource protection exists in each state.

Marine fish and other wildlife are generally protected by regulations and policies that dictate how, when and where fishing and other activities can occur.

Other regulations may limit where boats can anchor, where people can participate in recreation activities, and what type of development can occur. Any area in marine waters that has been specifically designated or protected is called a marine protected area.

NOAA is funding the project, which is scheduled to be completed by mid-March.

For more information about MPAs, the national inventory and regional work on MPAs, go to www.mpa.gov and www.PacificMPA.org.

Legislators learn about progress to protect Puget Sound

In the past year, state agencies, local governments, tribes and citizens took many specific actions to improve the health of Puget Sound.

Recently, the Puget Sound Action Team presented its report of the progress on those actions to legislative policy and fiscal committees. The findings are reported in the Action Team's biennial report, *Successes and Challenges of the 2001-2003 Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan*.

The Action Team's review looked at efforts of state agencies and local governments to implement the work plan during the first half of the 2001-2003 biennium, from June 2001 through July 2002.

State law requires the Action Team to develop and submit the successes and shortcomings report every two years.

The report is available on the Action Team website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound.



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Sign up for either or both of these listservs on the Puget Sound Action Team's website at:
www.wa.gov/puget_sound.

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If you would like this document in an alternate format, call (360) 407-7300, (800) 54_SOUND, or the TDD number: (800) 833-6388.

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The Puget Sound Action Team works with organizations to protect and restore Puget Sound. The Action Team includes representatives from the state's natural resource agencies and some tribal, federal and local governments. A Council of business, environmental organization, and local and tribal government representatives and the legislature advises the Action Team.

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Business

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Fisher Communications, Inc.

Environmental Community

Tom Putnam,
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Rhea Miller, San Juan County Board of Commissioners

Tribes

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