

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

March 17, 2006

Community partnership combines research and commitment to restore a local salmon stream

Last Monday night, Clarks Creek neighbors and members of the Clarks Creek Initiative Partnership (logos of participating organizations shown below) met to discuss a streamside restoration project for the WSU Puyallup side of Clarks Creek. The project is one of the initial efforts for the Clarks Creek Initiative, which seeks to improve water quality in the Puyallup River Watershed. Restoring habitat along Clarks Creek makes sense for many reasons: economically, it can save the City of Puyallup from spending money every year to dredge the creek for flood prevention; environmentally, the work stabilizes streambanks, can work to improve water quality and begins the process of creating suitable waters for returning salmon; for community, the restoration enables neighbors and agencies, like the partners listed above, to work together to protect a valuable community natural resource.

Jon Johnson, WSU Puyallup, will be a principal on the project, blending his on-going riparian buffer research with speciation alternatives along Clarks Creek. Rita Hummel and Eric Miltner are developing a proposal that considers streambank restoration alternatives of interest to residential homeowners.

The first step for the WSU Puyallup project will include tree-planting along the stream near the bridge by Pioneer Way. Pierce County Water Programs will coordinate volunteers and materials for this initial effort.



WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region- Programs for Its People.

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.