

# North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Befriending fish since 1990



## upcoming events

Tree Planting at Morse Creek, Port Angeles - February 15th, 10am-2pm.

Tree Planting at the Hoko River - February 19th, 10am-2pm.

Tree Planting at Snow Creek, Discovery Bay - February 22nd, 10am-2pm.

Invasives removal/ tree planting at Peabody Creek, Port Angeles - March 1st, 10am-2pm.

Tree Planting with Habitat for Humanity and Port Townsend HS, at Chimacum Creek - March 8th, 10am-2pm.

\*Morse, Peabody & Chim. Creeks: RSVP Larry, [intern@nosc.org](mailto:intern@nosc.org), 379-8051

## (Un)paving the Way for Salmon

### A little update on some big projects

North Olympic Salmon Coalition anticipates a busy summer of restoration activity, tackling more and larger projects than ever before in our 23-year history. Here's an update on three of our current large-scale projects. To learn more about these and other completed and current projects, please visit the [Restoration page](#) of our website.

The **3 Crabs Estuarine and Nearshore Restoration Project** will remove infrastructure, fill and armoring at the site of the former 3



Crabs Restaurant in Dungeness, and improve the ecological function of over 40 acres of coastal wetlands along Dungeness Bay. On February 13th, NOSC held an open-house public design review of the recently completed 30% Engineering Design. Visit the [3 Crabs Project Blog](#) for information on the status of the project.

The **Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project** is the largest project NOSC has undertaken to date. The goal is to restore self-sustaining

ecosystem processes to approximately 2,300 acres of highly productive habitat in Kilisut Harbor. The project will re-create 10-20 acres of historic tidal channels by removing a 450-foot causeway that has prevented salt marsh linkage between southern Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay. After a kickoff meeting with the Engineering team, field studies began as the project entered the preliminary design phase. On January 20th, NOSC presented an overview of the project to the Marrowstone Island Community Association. Visit the [Kilisut Project Blog](#) to watch a slideshow of the presentation and ongoing updates on the project.



Photo by Tom Roorda

The **Lower Discovery Bay Estuary Restoration Project** will remove and modify an abandoned railroad

\*Snow Creek and Hoko River: RSVP Reed, [raubin@nosc.org](mailto:raubin@nosc.org), 379-8051

### Habitat for Humanity Planting Event



Humanity of East Jefferson County is teaming with NOSC for a large volunteer tree planting event on Chimacum Creek. We'll be planting 1,200 trees along the creek at a site that has been donated for three new H4H houses.

Kyra Weidner, a senior at Port Townsend HS, has decided to work on this event for her senior project. Kyra has already helped us select which species to plant and designed a planting map. Now she'll be helping to recruit volunteers...like you!

Join us!  
March 8th, 10am-2pm  
RSVP to Larry  
[intern@nosc.org](mailto:intern@nosc.org)

### GET NOSC GEAR



Stop by the office and pick up NOSC t-shirts and TOTE BAGS!  
**\*T-shirts made with ORGANIC cotton.**



grade, side cast dredge spoils, and associated infrastructure. The goal of the project is to restore natural processes to approximately 37.1 acres of shoreline and estuary that have been severely impacted by past development. The next phase of the project will ensue in April with the relocation of a water line from the railroad grade to the

Highway 101 right-of-way and the removal of three railroad trestles. If you are interested in learning more about this project from NOSC staff, we will be holding an open house on **March 17th** at the **Gardiner Community Center** from **6:30-8:30pm**. We hope you will join us!

## Coho Spawner Season Comes to a Close Volunteers prove as hardy as the salmon



(L to R) Troy McKelvey, Pat McConnel and Jay Hagar pose after a survey on their creek stretch at FinnRiver Farm and Cidery

2013 was a challenging spawner season in Chimacum Creek, both for the Coho and their dedicated followers. Volunteers incessantly followed the salmon through low water, up and under fallen trees, and through thick webs of vegetation, in order to obtain important data on the health of the run. The data they collected still needs to be analyzed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), so stay tuned for details on this year's return. In the meantime, if you happen to know one of these amazing volunteers, congratulate them on their hard work!

## Thank you to all our volunteers!

How do salmon navigate back to their natal creeks anyway? Check out [this article about some interesting new research findings](#).

oh my!\*

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Facebook!



Like us on Facebook 

## WISH LIST

donate your extra  
stuff to NOSC



- drop-leaf table for outreach office
- lumber to build extra wader storage
- red fabric
- 12-passenger van

## Native Plant Sale



Photo by Joan Gerteis

**Jefferson County  
Conservation District**  
Saturday, February 22nd  
9am-1pm at the Jefferson  
County Fairgrounds, or  
10am-12pm at the

## Thanks, Bingo Buddies!



The Hilltop Tavern in Port Townsend may never be the same again. At this year's annual NOSC Bingo fundraiser series, we shattered our previous records for dollars raised, number of birthday parties celebrated, outrageousness of outfits, and number of participants. With a bingo take of almost \$1896, coupled with the generous matching challenges of several NOSC board members, we pulled in over \$3000! Many thanks to Judy and all her Hilltop Staff, and to all of you who came out to support. Thanks, fish buddies!

## Chimacum Creek Plantings

One of NOSC's earliest riparian projects is located at [Finnriver Farm](#), on the west fork of Chimacum Creek, once a terrible mass of reed canary grass, now a shaded stream stretch for happy coho. With easy creek access and friendly landowners, it is an ideal spot to bring students to see restoration in action and participate in small projects that enhance the creek. Some January highlights:

1/20: Everett Gordon (on ground with pruners), a farm neighbor, approached NOSC to help him ring in his 11th birthday by



planting some trees on the creek (His birthday often coincides with MLK day and he makes a point to celebrate with a service opportunity with his friends). Twelve youngsters and several family members came out to cut and plant willow stakes, inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mr. Coho Salmon. Then we had cake. Thanks, Everett!

Quilcene Comm. Center

**Volunteers needed!**  
Visit [JCCD's website](#) for more information

### Listen to Nature on the Radio!

Nature Now, a show

about our local natural history, is seeking new producers and researchers.

If you have an interest in

natural history, please contact **Kate Dwyer** [kdwyer@olympus.net](mailto:kdwyer@olympus.net)

You can listen to Nature Now every week on KPTZ 91.9 FM

### Short Takes on Dam(n) Science

Billed as "a fast-paced evening of science as entertainment," this event will bring together ten experts on the natural world who will tell what they're learning about the dam removal project on the Elwha River. Otters and salmon and orcas...oh my!

February 18th, 7PM  
Neptune Theatre, Seattle  
[stgpresents.org](http://stgpresents.org), \$5 at door

### Forage Fish Training Opportunity

The Northwest Straits Commission is organizing a free training for volunteers interested in surveying beaches for spawning Surf Smelt and Sand Lance.

March 19th  
Time and location TBD

1/30: Jefferson Community School-16 students, 12-17 years old. Despite a constant drizzle, we were able to get 100 western red cedar, Sitka spruce, and Pacific ninebark in the ground along the creek. The event was the culmination of a two-part program about the connection between orca and salmon in Puget



Sound and why it's important to protect salmon spawning grounds. For the planting event, the students selected the species and designed a planting plan for the site based upon the requirements of good salmon habitat, characteristics of the site, and landowner objectives.

1/31: YMCA Chimacum After-the-Bell - 6 elementary students.



A day after the JCS planting event, we brought in the YMCA After-the-bell squad to put more of the sensitive bare root seedlings in the ground. The kids only had an hour to complete their mission of planting two trees each, and they rocked it! Some of the kids planted three, bringing the total up to 15 for the afternoon. Thank you to all our tree planters!

## Plant-A-Thon 2014! Tarboo Creek gets another 3,000 trees



Contact Caroline Gibson  
[gibson@nwstraits.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraits.org)  
or (360) 391-7190

Volunteers learn how to identify tree species prior to planting at Tarboo Wildlife Preserve. Photo by Laura Tucker.

The Northwest Watershed Institute's (NWI) annual Plant-A-Thon event has always brought a lot of volunteers from local schools and communities. This year wasn't any different. 150 people of all ages planted 3,000 trees and shrubs at Tarboo Wildlife Preserve! NOSC's Reed Aubin and Larry Montague served as mentors to student crew leaders who helped organize volunteers and provide them with information about ecology, salmon, and plant identification. Congratulations to NWI, participating schools, and all volunteers for a highly successful day of planting!

Check out the [Peninsula Daily News](#) article about the event!

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service** **AmeriCorps celebrates 20 years by honoring King's legacy**

Much of NOSC's work gets done by a group of young people who, day-in and day-out, exemplify a spirit of community service. Once a year, the AmeriCorps program celebrates this by spreading the love to area organizations during the Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service. This year, the Washington Conservation Corps' (WCC) Port Hadlock crew (Rick Humphrey, Elijah Roulst, Dylan Kelly, Kori Riggle, and supervisor Owen French) joined NOSC Individual Placement (IP) Larry Montague and Olympic National Forest IP Michael Becker on four service projects around the Peninsula focused on human needs and the local community: cleaning of the Port Townsend Food Bank facility, garden maintenance at the Quilcene Enviro Arts Center, construction of an accessible trail behind Interorrem Cabin in Olympic National Forest, and building a home in Chimacum with Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County. Thank you to everyone who helped make this wonderful week happen! Visit the [crew blog](#) to see what kind of projects the WCC crew has been working on.



Cleaning the Port Townsend Food Bank facility



Working on a Habitat-for-Humanity home in Chimacum



Building an accessible trail near the Duckabush River in Olympic National Forest

## 2013 Annual Report

NOSC is proud to present our Annual Report! Enjoy reading the stories of our restoration projects, stewardship work and education efforts from last year. You may recognize a face or two from our 2013 MLK day volunteer planting, or be amazed at some truly great photographs of our local salmon! A special thanks to all of our donors, members and volunteers who made last year a true success-

Thank you!

Please click on this link to be directed to a pdf of the 6 page report: [NOSC Annual Report](#)

