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News Release



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May 25, 2010

Local Land Trust Receives National Award

The Coastal America Partnership has chosen the Nisqually Land Trust and its partners to receive its prestigious “Coastal America Spirit Award.” This national award recognizes the Red Salmon Restoration Team (Nisqually Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Veterans Conservation Corps, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Pierce County Stream Team, Intel Corporation, school groups, and many, many volunteers) for successfully collaborating to restore important salmon and migratory bird habitat in the Land Trust’s Red Salmon Creek Management Unit in the Nisqually River delta.

The Coastal America Spirit Award recognizes exceptional projects that demonstrate the 'spirit' of teamwork for group efforts that are poised to address our challenging coastal issues. Coastal America chose the Red Salmon Creek project because it contributed to the restoration of the Nisqually Delta, the largest estuary restoration project on the Pacific Coast, and because of its significant number of partners and volunteers. The Land Trust was the lead for this 30-acre restoration project. With help from their partners and more than 200 volunteers, they removed five acres of blackberry and ivy from marsh, wetland and upland habitat and planted over 8,500 native trees and shrubs.

By removing invasive plants and planting native trees, the Nisqually Land Trust and its partners are protecting the headwaters of Red Salmon Slough. The slough is the largest tidal channel in the recently completed Nisqually Estuary Restoration Project, which restored over 800 acres of tidelands in South Puget Sound. Careful management and restoration of the Red Salmon Creek property will assure a steady flow of clean water to the estuary, water free of weeds that could seriously impair the habitat functions of the multi-million dollar restoration project.

A plaque and certificates will be awarded to project partners on June 4, 2010, at the Red Salmon Creek Management Unit from 1:30-3:00. Please RSVP to Rich Carlson at the number above.

Directions: From I-5 take the Mounts Road exit (Exit 116) and turn north on Mounts Road (right if coming from the north, left if from the south). Please park at the Fort Lewis Golf Course overflow parking lot on the left, just past the freeway. A shuttle will take you the remaining one mile to the event. This is an outdoor event dress appropriately for the weather.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.