



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

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Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Reardon Signs Grant for Habitat Crew to Protect Water Quality

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*County Executive and Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement
Task Force to share Department of Ecology Work Crew*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, under a unique grant funding arrangement with the Washington State Department of Ecology, has signed an Agreement to split 50/50, a full-time Environmental Habitat Restoration Crew with the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force to improve water quality in Snohomish County.

“Clean water, its preservation and restoration in the natural environment, is one of our most important and costly responsibilities.” says Reardon. “Creative programs like the WCC program provide critical resources to help local government fulfill its obligations.”

Snohomish County's Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works, Surface Water Management Division were awarded the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) habitat crew to perform conservation work relating to the protection of water quality in Snohomish County. The partnership between Snohomish County and the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force provides for the habitat crew to work half-time for each agency effective one-year from October 2005.

For Snohomish County, the crew will work on projects throughout the County specific to salmon habitat restoration and revegetation of river and stream shorelines. These projects are necessary to reduce erosion, improve and restore salmon habitat, and maintain clean water in Snohomish County.

The Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force is one of fourteen fisheries enhancement groups formed by Washington State legislature in 1990.

The WCC grant funded crew of six includes a crew lead from the Department of Ecology. The grant also provides the habitat crew with a truck, equipment and direction and training for crew members.

The WCC is a subsidized job training program operated through the State Department of Ecology, in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps). The mission of the WCC is to conserve and enhance the natural resources of Washington State and to provide young adults an opportunity to enrich themselves through meaningful work and community service.

Snohomish County's Surface Water Management Division has operated with grant funded WCC crews for about three years. They have also benefited from individual placement interns also from the same WCC program.

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