



Washington State University

Snohomish County Extension

2018

600 128th Street SE
Everett, WA 98208
(425) 338-2400

snohomish.wsu.edu



BY THE NUMBERS

- 250+ event days in Snohomish County across four programs:
- Over 22,500 direct conversations with residents on Salish Sea ecosystem literacy, including:
 - * 9,500 educated on recycling best practices
 - * 2,000 K-8th grade students educated through Science-based learning
 - * 2400 dog owners instructed on pet waste handling
 - * 543 hours of instruction in getting youth outside and doing active science
 - * 2400 Latino contacts on recycling and water pollution issues



Natural Resources

Cultivating Plants, People and Communities since 1973

ISSUE

The Salish Sea (Coastal waterways that includes the Canadian province of BC, Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound) is an estuary in distress. The wildlife, habitats and waters of the region continue to be negatively impacted by a variety of human-caused pressures. Several wildlife populations are continuing a downward trend: decreased Orca numbers, struggling Chinook and Coho salmon populations, and select seabird declines. Many causes are attributed to water pollution, especially stormwater sources, habitat changes and fragmentation and the increasing impacts of climate change. Along with these ecosystem issues, the United States recycling market is in a state of crisis with exports of recycled goods, especially plastics, being rejected and returned. A challenge in addressing this issue is the increasingly diverse 4 million plus Washington residents living around Puget Sound that are a source or contributor to the many stresses our region is experiencing.



RESPONSE

- Increase resident's appreciation of the resources at our doorstep, as well as increasing literacy on the processes and issues impacting Salish Sea health today.
- Provide needed citizen science support to research and monitoring efforts that answer unsolved questions or address management need.
- Offer options for behavior change that would result in cleaner water, reduced waste and decreased carbon footprints.

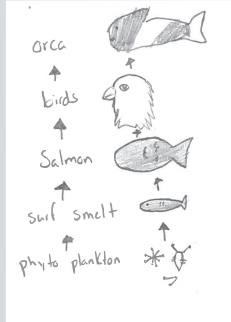
Chrys Bertolotto

Supervisor Natural Resource Program
(425) 357-6020
chrys@wsu.edu

The WSU Snohomish County Extension Natural Resources Team engages urban and suburban Snohomish County community members to discover, conserve and actively steward the natural resources of the region.

QUOTES

"Thank you for allowing our class to go to the beach. I enjoyed the food web game and learning about the plastic. Also, it was fun to pick up the crabs. I have never seen a Dungeness Crab before. Thank you very much."
-4th grader



"Volunteering with WSU Snohomish County Extension is very useful and helps motivate everyone to collaborate. These programs must be replicated in other counties."
- [translated] Latino Volunteer

"I have loved this training! I am so much more aware of climate issues and I think each day about what environmental behavior changes I can make and have made. Looking forward to the volunteer opportunities!"
- Sustainable Community Stewards



RESPONSE cont'd

- Maintain and expand a suite of robust stewardship programs that met the needs and interests Snohomish County's diverse population while doing impactful work.
- Share staff technical expertise and leadership in ways that build the reputation of Washington State University while providing needed services to past, current and future partners.



IMPACTS

- **Community Energy:** Engaged over 250 diverse community volunteers as educators, citizen scientist and project planners. Programs and activities were offered in both English and Spanish, from Darrington to Edmonds, in forests, festivals and on our marine shorelines. Those volunteers donated over 4500 hundred volunteer hours in 2018.
- **Solid Waste:** Over 4500 pounds of recyclables and compostable and almost 80 cubic yards of foam were diverted from landfills at local festivals and targeted collection events. In addition, 236 durable items were kept out of the landfill during our first year's offering of Repair Cafes in Everett.
- **Water Quality:** Over 110 water samples were collected at our most heavily used local marine beaches to test for bacterial contamination and prevent human health impacts. Volunteers supported Snohomish County's outreach to 8 veterinary clinics who educated 2400 dog owning clients on proper pet waste disposal methods. Volunteers also raised awareness about the free hazardous waste disposal option offered to all Snohomish County residents – with over 50% having never heard of the facility before.
- **Climate Change Education:** A new six-week climate change curriculum has been created and piloted, providing the basic science behind climate processes, sources and impacts from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to habitats, wildlife and people and our best options for addressing this with current technology.