

Adios

By Corinne Hughes



I first saw Skagit County on the way to my future home, Bellingham. It was love at first sight. Since then, I have spent the past two years working in this county. I was intimately introduced last year working on a crew for the Nature Conservancy surveying the Sauk and Skagit rivers for knotweed. This year, I've had more contact with the local community through volunteer events and, of course, more contact with the salmon! During one winter spawner survey, a barking dog approached the creek and frightened me. I lost my balance and my glasses! Suddenly, the dog was entering the cold water. As I screeched, a Coho jumped out of the water towards the dog, which ran away in fear and did not return. As if I don't already have enough reason to respect these amazing creatures! Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group gave me an opportunity to learn about salmon, the way nonprofit organizations function, research techniques, running a nursery and planning events for the community. Learning about the plight of salmon immensely influenced my life. I plan to return to school after this year for a degree in marine biology.