

## *Another Season of Successful Plantings*

*By Ona Strikas*

We would like to thank all of our landowners, the United States Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Skagit Land Trust and Barb Trask and Ger Van den Engh, for partnering with us to come together to help restore salmon habitat. This fall SFEG focused on planting trees in flood plain areas to restore salmon habitat. We had 81 volunteers at five planting events, contributing 236 hours. Along with the SFEG and WCC crews, about 3,000 native trees and shrubs were planted this season! Our plantings helped to transform former cattle fields and farm lands to young forest to help stabilize the nearby Skagit River, allow for more woody debris accumulation, and greater groundwater infiltration of the rainwater. We really appreciate the hard work of our volunteers who braved sometimes cold and rainy weather to make a difference for future generations of salmon!



*We start them young....*



*Our wonderful volunteers at The Nature Conservancy's Jackman Creek planting site November 22.*



*Corinne Hughes leads Mount Vernon Christian High School students in stretches prior to planting.*

Mount Vernon Christian High School also partnered with us for a service learning planting party. They toughed the very rocky soil to plant 122 trees while learning about the importance of pristine riparian corridors.

We'd like to thank Krispy Kreme and Mount Vernon Red Apple for donating snacks for our volunteers at these events. We look forward to seeing even more volunteers at our planting parties this spring; together, we can continue to make a difference!