

# Thanks for a Great Fall Planting Season!

*By Katie Moyer*

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for making this a great fall planting season! Throughout the fall we had five planting parties and one school group planting (thanks to the helpful students from Mount Vernon Christian High School). All of our events were located on various floodplain areas of the Skagit River (as well as the Cascade River floodplain up at the Marblemount Boat Launch). The vegetation planted will help to stabilize the riverbanks, filter run-off, and provide leaf litter to feed the aquatic insects that are in turn eaten by juvenile salmon. Perhaps in the future after the trees mature they will fall and be carried to the river where they will provide large woody debris that can serve as great habitat for salmon, both young and mature, trying to hide from predators.



Our planting party grand totals include 140 volunteers over the course of the fall who collectively contributed a total of 370 hours of hard work. Furthermore, they planted a very impressive 3,690 native trees and shrubs! Many thanks also to our partners: Skagit Land Trust, US Forest Service, Skagit County Parks and Recreation, Skagit County Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and property owners Ger Van den Engh and Barb Trask. Meanwhile Haggen, Food Pavilion, Rexville Grocery, Calico Cupboard, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks, and Skagit County Healthy Communities Project were kind enough to donate a whole host of tasty snacks for our volunteers.

Congratulations all, and thank you again for helping us to improve salmon habitat. We look forward to seeing you again in the spring!