

June Program Meeting Of Puffins and Petrels

Friday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Hodum

Although Washington is blessed with a rich community of breeding and wintering seabirds, relatively little is known about the ecology and conservation status of many of the species, particularly the burrow-nesters. This relative lack of knowledge extends to iconic species such as the Tufted Puffin, a species listed as Endangered by Washington State. Moving between islands, seascapes and species of the waters of Washington, Peter J. Hodum, Ph.D., shares stories about a collaborative research program focused on improving our understanding of the ecology and conservation status of species such as the Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin’s Auklet, and Leach’s and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels.

Dr. Hodum is a professor in the Biology Department and the Environmental Policy and Decision-Making Program at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and the Chile Program Director for Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, a conservation nonprofit



Tufted Puffin | Photo Credit: Peter Hodum

organization. His research focuses primarily on the conservation and ecology of threatened seabirds and island ecosystems in Chile and Washington State. His work also has a strong focus on community-based conservation, including how communities can be more effectively and authentically involved in conservation.

When: June 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Where: Online

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudeCuqzwrGNPHxClo6g3KDM7i1NipWcX5>

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Make a Difference in Your Community: Become a Chapter Leader!

If you'd like to be more involved in the conservation of your local birds and natural landscapes, we would love to hear from you! We currently have several leadership roles in our chapter that are vacant or are expected to be vacant in the near future. Our chapter depends on community leaders like you to keep our important work moving forward, so whether you're an experienced Board member, a first-time volunteer, an accountant, or a biologist, we hope you'll reach out about these wonderful opportunities with our chapter.

Board of Directors Openings:

Vice President

Immediate availability, current term ends April 2023

Treasurer

Term begins April 2023

Encouraged to shadow and learn from current Treasurer before term starts

Membership Committee Chair

Immediate availability

Non-Board Openings:

Newsletter Editor

Immediate availability

Encouraged to shadow and learn from current Editor

Communications Committee Chair

Immediate availability

For more information or to express your interest in a position, please contact Brian at director@pilchuckaudubon.org.



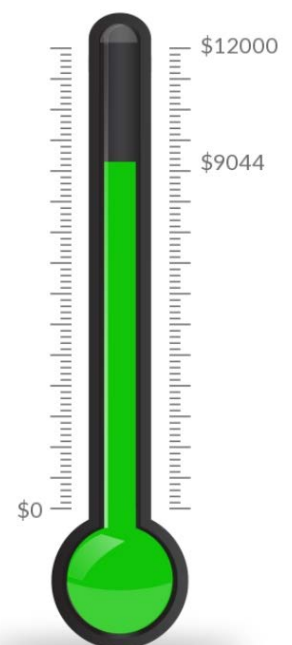
Birdathon Update

It's been another exciting year, with several teams breaking the 100-species mark! And as I write this, there are still a few hours left in the month of May for teams to tack on a few more species to their totals.

There's also still time for you to help us reach our fundraising goal. Our goal this year is \$12,000, but right now we are still short of that.

Your gift towards our Birdathon will help ensure that we can focus on our mission throughout the year, giving our attention to our birds and local conservation issues.

[Contribute to Birdathon Today!](#)



Upcoming Classes

NEW DATE ADDED: Butterflies of Western Washington [field trip]

June 18

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pricing: \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members



Red Admiral | Photo
Credit: Washington
Butterfly Association,
wabutterflyassoc.org

Instructor: David Droppers

Join David Droppers as he introduces you to the butterflies of western Washington. But this is no classroom lecture. You'll be introduced firsthand in the field! Learn about a butterfly's life, Washington's different butterfly ecoregions, and how lepidopterists study butterflies and moths. Other topics will be covered as opportunities and questions arise.

The field trip will take place on Darrington's North Mountain, where we will stop at multiple sites to assess the local butterfly community. Using catch-and-release techniques, butterflies will be examined up close. Bring your camera! You'll see why butterflies are the perfect accompaniment to your birding adventures.

We have only a few spots left in this class, so don't delay, register today!

Register for class at:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>



Left: Herring Gull
(allaboutbirds.org)



Right: Forster's Tern

Glorious Gulls and Terns [online]

September 1, 8, 15, 22

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Pricing: \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members

Instructor: Connie Sidles

When many people—including a lot of birders—see a gull fly by, they shrug and say, “Oh, there goes another gull.” They don't see the glory of these silvery inhabitants of sea and shore. Gulls and terns are wondrous birds: smart survivors in a world much changed by humans, graceful flyers that fill our skies, and raucous communicators full of secrets. One of their most puzzling secrets is why are there so many different species, when they all seem to be doing the same thing? If you're curious about the answer and want to tell one species apart from another, come with master birder Connie Sidles to explore this delightful avian family. You'll never shrug them off again.

Class will be conducted over Zoom (and recorded if you cannot make the live session)

Register for class at:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

TRIP CALENDAR



Check our website, <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, for the latest information.

Saturday, June 4 Meadowbrook & Matthews Beach

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick

425-776-4811 (landline) or dresnick1@comcast.net

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Meadowbrook Pond and Meadowbrook Playfield Park as well as nearby Matthews Beach Park, all of which are in Seattle. This should be an easy walk, though not short. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2022 Field Trip Liability Release](#) to director@pilchuckaudubon.org, please contact the trip leader in order to register for the trip.

Tuesday, June 7 Big Four Picnic Area

7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lake Stevens Transit Center next to Target on Market Pl. just east of Hwy. 9. Alternatively, just meet us at Big Four. We will make a couple of stops along Mountain Loop Highway and then bird the Big Four area before enjoying a picnic buffet lunch. Bring a salad or dessert to share unless requested to bring other specific items. Hot dogs to be provided. Note: The Ice Caves trail remains closed.

Tuesday, June 14 Ellensburg Area

6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 6:00 AM at the Monroe Park & Ride next to the Evergreen Fairgrounds on Hwy. 2. Edmonds participants will meet us at Snoqualmie Pass 7:15-7:30. We will bird along Thorpe Rd., Taneum Creek, Yakima Canyon, and Umptanum Rd. in search of central Washington sagebrush and riparian specialties. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, June 21 Sedro-Woolley to Newhalem

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Quil Ceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quil Ceda Blvd. (next to I-5). After looking for bitterns and buntings at Northern States Recreation

Area, we will visit hotspots along Hwy. 20 through Lyman, Rockport, Marblemount and even Newhalem, where American Redstart and Red-eyed Vireo are possibilities. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, June 28 Camano Island

7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quil Ceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quil Ceda Blvd. (next to I-5). This trip will be shorter than recent itineraries but promises a good selection of species at locations like English Boom, Maple Grove, Barnum Point, and Iverson Point.

Saturday, July 2 Woodway and Edmonds Parks

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick

425-776-4811 (landline) or dresnick1@comcast.net

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit two parks in Woodway and a nearby park in Edmonds. This will be a moderately easy walk. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2022 Field Trip Liability Release](#) to director@pilchuckaudubon.org, please contact the trip leader in order to register for the trip. ✍

2022 Field Trip Waivers

If you plan on attending a field trip, please be prepared to sign a waiver when you show up, or send yours in electronically ahead of time to director@pilchuckaudubon.org. Even if you've recently signed a 2021 waiver, we'll need you to sign a new one for the current year.

As a reminder, our current guidelines are:

- For those who are unvaccinated for COVID-19, we will not be able to accommodate your attendance on field trips at this time.
- For those who are vaccinated:
 - Masks are not required while outdoors.
 - Carpooling with individuals from outside of your house is allowed, but masks should be worn while in the vehicle.
 - Maintaining 6 feet of distance between participants is highly encouraged.
 - Sharing equipment is discouraged.

Please review the full [field trip guidelines here](#). You can [download your 2022 waiver here](#) to sign ahead of time.

Thank you for helping us keep our friends, families, and communities safe! ✍

Trip Report: Bird Walks at Buffalo Ponds, Penny Creek Natural Area, and Silver Lake, May 7, 2022

By Douglas Resnick

Nine birders met in the morning in the parking lot of the Thomas Lake Shopping Center in Mill Creek. The forecast had been for rain all day, but we ventured out despite this. Fortunately for us, the rain let up for quite a while during our visit to the first two sites.

It was easy to reach Buffalo Ponds from the shopping center; we used the nearby crosswalk to walk across 35th Ave. SE. As we continued eastward along 132nd St. SE, over the noise of the traffic, we heard Red-winged Blackbirds; in several places we saw the northern edge of the ponds. Just before 39th Ave. SE, a right turn took us through a shopping mall to viewpoints along the eastern edge of the ponds. There, we saw several waterfowl, including Canada Goose, Mallard, and most especially Cinnamon Teal. Two of us departed at this point, for personal reasons.

South of Buffalo Ponds is an area referred to by the City of Mill Creek as the Farm Mitigation Area, but by some others as Penny Creek Natural Area. Although this area is not officially open to the public yet, we were able to obtain permission for today's visit. The vehicle entrance on 35th Ave. SE is closed by a locked gate; so, we entered on foot via a trail that begins near the east end of the paved Buffalo Ponds trail. That small trail leads to a large loop trail, partly made up of boardwalks or bridges over the extensive watery areas. Accordingly,

we observed many waterbirds, including Hooded Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, and American Coots. We enjoyed hearing the eerie song and calls of the grebes. Violet-green Swallows flew above the water. We also found birds among the trees and shrubs, including two heard-only Black-headed Grosbeaks, a vivid Townsend's Warbler, and a startling leucistic Spotted Towhee.

After completing the loop, we continued on the Buffalo Ponds trail, with ponds on both sides of us. We were lucky to hear a Virginia Rail, as we turned westward to our starting point. Two of us departed after this, satisfied with the birding already accomplished.

Rain began again, as we got into our cars. We drove to Hauge Homestead Park on the southern shore of Silver Lake. At the start, we found many Mallards, but few other birds. The plan had been to follow the trail up the east side of the lake, but the rain persisted. We paused part-way up the trail, in order to visit L'Artisan Pastry. Over delectable baked goods, eaten standing, we discussed the situation and decided to end our morning with such sweet thoughts.

We spent about 3 hours at Buffalo Ponds and Penny Creek Natural Area and reported 48 species in eBird. We spent about 20 minutes at Silver Lake and reported 3 species.



Passing of Harriet Bullitt

We are saddened to share the passing of our dear friend, Harriet Bullitt. She was a conservationist, philanthropist, National Audubon Society Medal recipient, and Pacific Northwest icon. Please honor Harriet by taking time to enjoy and celebrate nature, and then join us in taking action to protect it. [Read more about Harriet's legacy at Audubon.](#)

Migration season is a wonderful time of the year to enjoy and celebrate nature. It's also the season of bird festivals in Washington. With the [Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival](#), [Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest](#), and the [Leavenworth Bird Fest](#) already behind us, and the [Wenas Audubon Campout](#) this weekend, opportunities abound to get outside with your birding community across the state. We are also proud to announce that the [Rainier Audubon Society](#) is starting a new bird festival next month at Flaming Geyser State Park. With so many opportunities to get outside, it's never been easier



to enjoy nature and find your flock of people to continue Audubon's (and Harriet's) legacy of conservation. 🦋

*Dr. Deborah Jensen, Executive Director
Audubon Washington | Newsletter, May 2022*

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

March 26, 2022 to April 25, 2022

The number of bird species reported this period has increased and continues to increase in May. The migratory birds are returning.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth listed 14 American Robin; 2 Anna's Hummingbird; 2 Bald Eagle in the trees; a Belted Kingfisher; 3 Black-capped Chickadee; 6 Brewer's Blackbird; 11 Bufflehead, 5 Double-crested Cormorant, 4 Hooded Merganser, 2 Lesser Scaup, and 2 Mallard Duck on the lake, 2 Common Merganser; a Common Raven overhead; 3 Dark-eyed Junco; 2 Downy Woodpecker; 3 European Starling; 6 Golden-crowned Sparrow; 2 Hairy Woodpecker; a Hutton's Vireo; 3 Mourning Dove; 2 Northern Flicker; 3 Osprey over the lake; 4 Pine Siskin; a Pileated Woodpecker; 9 Purple Finch; 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch; a Red-breasted Sapsucker; 8 Ring-necked Duck; 24 Red-winged Blackbird; 2 Rufous Hummingbird; 3 Song Sparrow; 3 Steller's Jay; 7 Spotted Towhee; 20+ Tree Swallow; 2 Turkey Vulture over the house; 3 White-crowned Sparrow; and 2 Wood Duck, for a total species count of 43.

Sarah and Paul Bueren's report from Edmonds included a Common Raven, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Purple Finch, a Pine Siskin, 5 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Spotted Towhee, 10 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 15 American Crow (the neighbor is still feeding), a Bewick's Wren, 10 Tree Swallow, 2 Song Sparrow, and 2 House Finch, for a total species count of 16.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed a Bald Eagle circling over the Sound, 12 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Mourning Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, an American Robin, a Spotted Towhee, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 House Finch, 11 Pine Siskin, an American Goldfinch, and a Rufous Hummingbird, for a total species count of 22.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 4 Steller's Jay, 29 Bushtit, 9 American Crow, 6 Western Gull flying over, 7 American Robin, 6 House Finch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 3 Song Sparrow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 23 European Starling, 9 Dark-eyed Junco,

2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Wood Duck, 2 female Mallard Duck and 12 ducklings, 4 Varied Thrush, 1 Lincoln Sparrow, and 2 Red-winged Blackbird, for a total species count of 23.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 2 American Goldfinch, 11 American Robin, 9 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 15 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Barn Swallow, 2 Bewick's Wren, 10 Black-capped Chickadee, 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Brown Creeper, 6 Brown-headed Cowbird, 5 Bushtit, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 22 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Eurasian Collared Dove, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl in the trees, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 12 House Finch, a Killdeer in the pasture, 9 Kinglet species, 2 Mallard Duck, 16 Mourning Dove, 4 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Pine Siskin, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 56 Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 7 Song Sparrow, 5 Spotted Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, 4 Tree Swallow, 2 Varied Thrush, 6 White-crowned Sparrow, and 2 Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 41.



Tree Swallow |
allaboutbirds.org

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi's report included a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 American Robin, 4 House Finch, 7 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, 4 American Crow, 11 Pine Siskin, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker on a tree trunk, a Varied Thrush, a Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Mourning Dove, and 2 Band-tailed Pigeon, for a total species count of 20.

My total species count of 18 from my home in Marysville included 11 American Robin, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 30+ American Crow, 6 House Finch, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 10 Mallard Duck in the pond, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Ring-necked Duck, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Varied Thrush, a Mourning Dove, 2 Song Sparrow, 5 Pine Siskin, and 2 Steller's Jay.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Bird Count, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or call my cell phone at 425-750-8125. 🦋

Last month I wrote about “The Hard Work of Hope.” This month I want to talk about habitat restoration projects that give us reasons to be hopeful. Below is a partial list of habitat restoration projects in Snohomish County. Collectively, these projects are impressive in their number and scale and comprise one of the largest estuary restoration projects in the country. In these days when it seems everyone is complaining about our government, here are some great things our local, state, and federal governments are doing to help our environment. I know, they do some things we don't like, too. But there are a lot of dedicated staff working hard for the environment. Although most of these projects are aimed at fish habitat and funded for that, they also provide excellent bird habitat. There are undoubtedly more projects that I haven't found. Now if we can sustain or increase this level of effort for the next fifty years, we can really make a difference; after all, it took us 150 years to create the problems.

Tulalip Tribes

Qwuloolt – <https://www.qwuloolt.org/>

The Qwuloolt Estuary is located within the Snohomish River floodplain, approximately three miles upstream from its outlet to Puget Sound and within Marysville city limits.

Historically, the area was tidal marsh and forest scrub-shrub habitat, interlaced by tidal channels, mudflats and streams. Prior to the levee breach on August 28, 2015, for over a hundred years the project area had been cut off from the natural influences of the Snohomish River and Salish Sea tides by levees, drained by ditches instead of stream channels, and characterized by a monoculture of invasive reed canary grass instead of native shrubs and grasses. Through the cooperation of its many partners, this project has retuned the historic and natural influences of the river and tides to the Qwuloolt. <https://video-monitoring.com/timelapse/tulalip/>

Pilchuck River Dam Removal

The Tulalip Tribes removed the Pilchuck River Diversion Dam in Summer 2020, restoring connectivity and fish access to more than 37 miles of priority habitat for virtually all of the salmonid species found in the Snohomish River Basin including Chinook, Steelhead, Coho, bull trout, and others. The project was a collaboration with the City of Snohomish after an agreement was finalized to work together to restore the Pilchuck River in June 2018.

Habersetle Dam Removal Restoration

The Tulalip Tribes Restoration, Acquisition, and Stewardship Program worked with a private landowner to remove an earthen dam on a direct tributary of the Snoqualmie River. This most downstream barrier was 0% passable, cutting off more than a mile of fish habitat in an important rearing and spawning area for salmon.

Coho Creek Restoration

In 2002 and 2003 multiple culverts were removed within Coho Creek and tributaries to allow for improved access. Enhancement efforts after culvert removal focused on increasing spawning habitat and naturalizing the stream system by removing the creek from a ditch into constructed, meandering channel containing pools, riffles, log habitat structures, and, where conditions allowed, reconnecting the stream channel with a functioning riparian system and wetlands.

Tualco Valley Connectivity

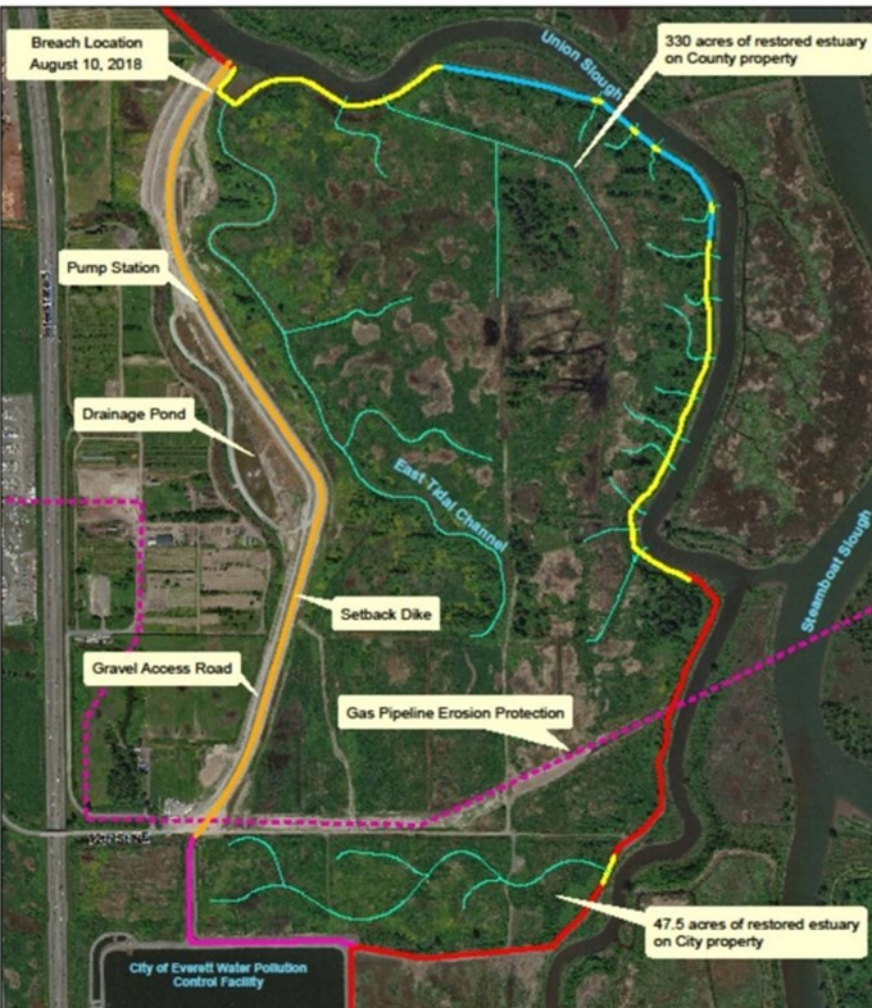
The Tualco Valley lies at the heart of the Snohomish River Basin, where the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers meet to form the Snohomish River. Haskell and Riley sloughs flow through the Tualco Valley (see map, Page 8). They have provided critical salmon habitat along with irrigation for abundant agriculture. However, both sloughs have degraded, harming salmon habitat, streamflow, and drainage. There are also aging and damaged levees in the valley that are a flood risk and harm salmon habitat. Tulalip and project partners will work with Tualco Valley landowners and stakeholders to understand community needs. The goal is to design project alternatives that simultaneously enhance environmental, agricultural, and flood resiliency to make the valley better for people and our iconic salmon species.

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Deer Creek Enhancement

Designed to improve steelhead and coho habitat in Deer Creek, a major tributary to the North Fork Stillaguamish River. Deer Creek was formerly known as one of the most productive summer steelhead systems in the region. However, previous management regimes in the Deer Creek Watershed and associated large slope failures (including the expansive



DeForest Creek landslide) have resulted in the lack of large woody debris (LWD), subsequent channel widening, water temperature increases, and changes in sediment dynamics within the system. Our enhancement project followed a process-based approach by focusing on the restoration/enhancement of hydrogeomorphic conditions by installing LWD structures.

Snohomish County Surface Water Management

Smith Island

This project removed dikes on a 400-acre site and restored it to a tidal estuary.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1150/Smith-Island-Restoration-Project>

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President's Letter, *Continued from Page 8*

Thomas' Eddy, Snohomish River

Snohomish County is currently preparing a master plan for this site to remove dikes and return it to a more natural condition. It is a spectacularly beautiful portion of the river.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5816/Thomas-Eddy-Restoration-Project>

Mid Spencer Island

A 74-acre site restored to intertidal estuary adjacent to the Smith Island restoration project.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5417/Mid-Spencer-Island-Restoration-Project>

Middle Pilchuck River

This project proposes to add large woody debris in the main-stem Pilchuck River; enhance river complexity, such as bank edge habitat and pools; increase connectivity to the floodplain and side channels; and reestablish native riparian forest. In addition, with the addition of in-stream wood, river flow velocities will be reduced and therefore potentially reduce erosion. In final design with permit applications being submitted now.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/6045/Middle-Pilchuck-Restoration-Project>

Community Floodplain Solutions – SnoCo

Multiple projects working with landowners to restore river functions and protect agriculture.

<https://mplshdrshared.com/SnoCoCFS/map/>



Snohomish County Parks

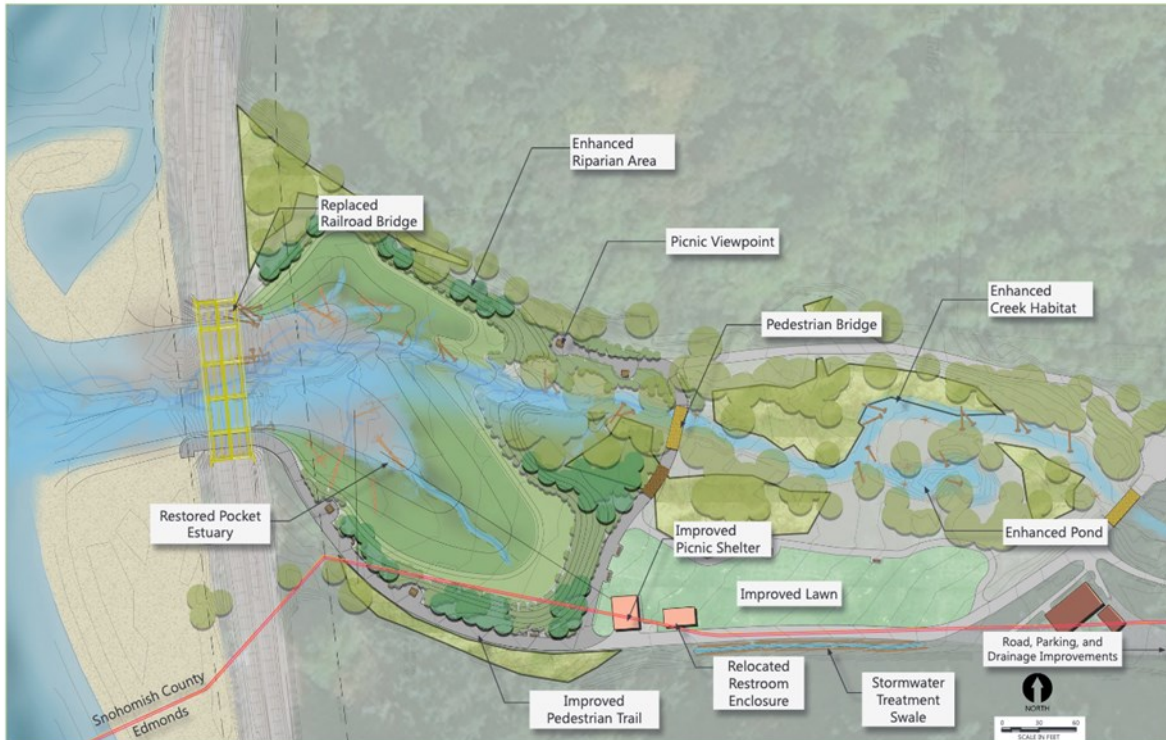
Meadowdale Beach Park

Currently under construction, this project will replace a concrete culvert with a 110-foot-long railroad bridge and recreate an estuary (see Page 10 for estuary map).

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2710/Meadowdale-Beach-Park-and-Estuary-Restor>



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Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Leque Island

During the summer of 2019, WDFW, DU, and Strider Construction completed the project. The team removed more than 2.4 miles of levee, excavated more than 5 miles of new tidal channels, and built a berm that protects the City of Stanwood from waves while also supporting a walking trail.

Removing the dikes restored 250 acres of tidal marsh habitat in the Stillaguamish River watershed where 85% of historic tidal marsh has been displaced. Estuaries are important for juvenile Chinook salmon as they transition from freshwater to saltwater, as well as shorebirds, waterfowl, and a host of other species in the area. Because Puget Sound's southern resident killer whales rely on Chinook salmon for food, the project is also closely aligned with orca recovery efforts.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/nearshore/conservation/projects/leque-restoration>



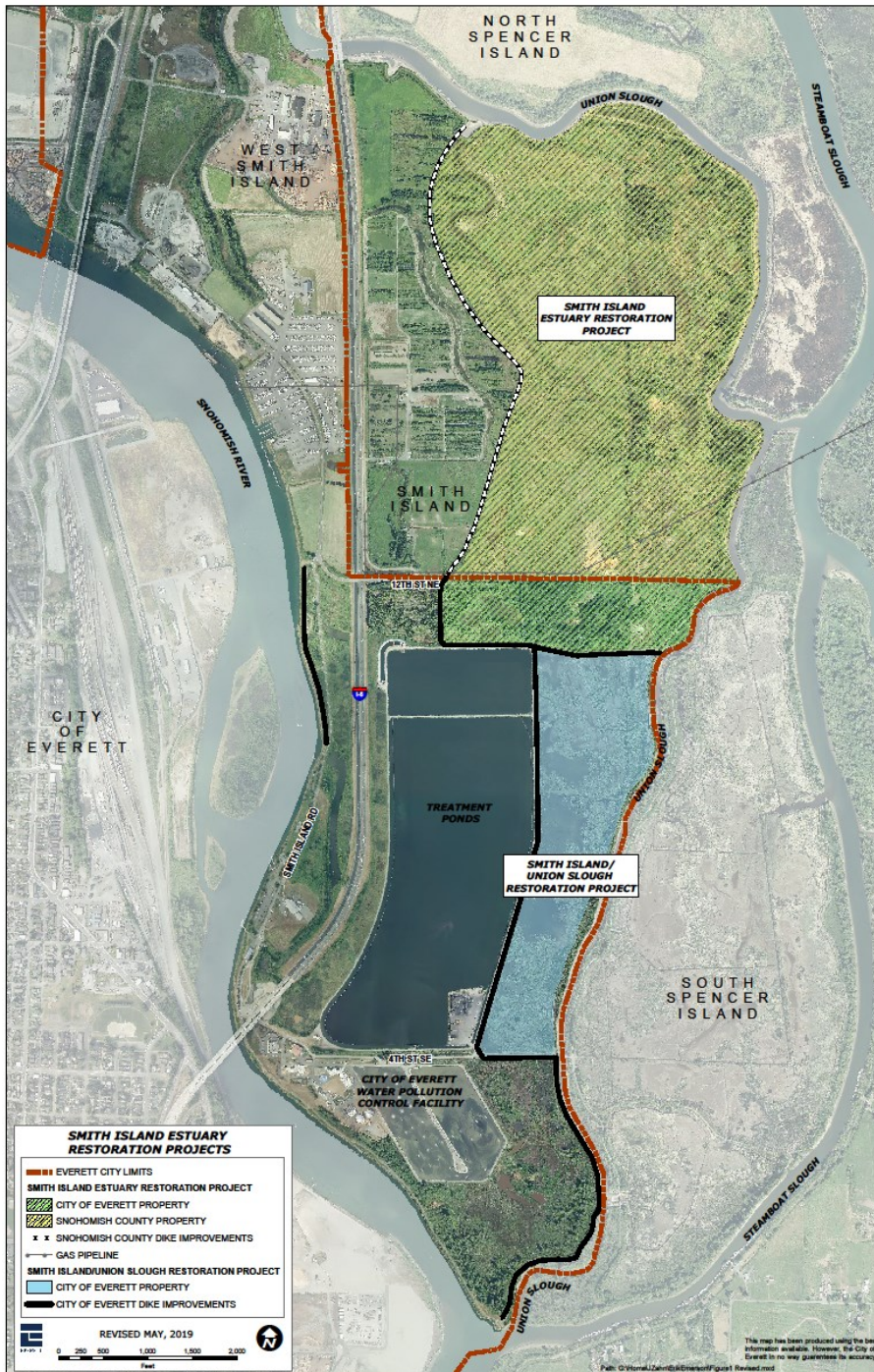
The trail on top of the wave protection berm at Leque Island is very popular with birders.

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City of Everett

Smith Island/Union Slough Salmon Habitat Restoration

Originally constructed in 2007, the Smith Island/Union Slough Restoration site completed its monitoring period in 2017. The monitoring efforts demonstrated that the project successfully reestablished high-grade estuarine habitat used by salmon and other fish as well as numerous bird and mammal species. A joint effort between the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Everett, this project breached historic dikes, restoring tidal influence to 93 acres of unused land. The project is located east of the City's sewer treatment lagoons as shown in this [Smith Island Estuary Restoration Map \(PDF\)](#). This site is accessible from 4th St NE and is a great place for bird watching or a stroll on the Smith Island Trail from [Langus Riverfront Park](#).



Port of Everett Mitigation Sites

Bay Wood—Former Lumber and Mill Site at Preston Point

In late 2020, the Port of Everett, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), kicked-off a shoreline clean-up and habitat restoration at the Port's vacant Bay Wood property—a former waterfront mill site located at the northern end of West Marine View Drive. The shoreline restoration sets out to create 1,300 linear feet (LF) of shoreline habitat and 2,300 LF of upland buffer habitat, clean up contaminated soil, and provide space for a new public access shoreline nature trail—the first public access to the site in its history. The \$2.3 million shoreline clean-up and restoration work is funded by a unique grant from Ecology that pays for 90 percent of the project. [Learn More](#)

Blue Heron Slough—Restoring 353 Acres of Salmon Habitat

In 2019, the Port of Everett reached a momentous and comprehensive agreement with the Port Gardner Bay Trustees to invest in and restore 353 acres of salmon habitat at Blue Heron Slough located in the tidelands between north Everett and south Marysville. The Port's agreement, memorialized under a formal Consent Decree with the U.S. Department of Justice, is now underway.

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President's Letter, *Continued from Page 11*

The agreement represents a comprehensive settlement for natural resources damage liability from the years of historic industry on Everett's waterfront. The project's restored habitats, including marsh, mudflat, riparian, and channel habitats, will provide habitat for and assist in the recovery of the Puget Sound Chinook salmon and bull trout. [Learn More](#)

Edgewater Beach

The Port of Everett constructed Edgewater Beach at the South Everett/Mukilteo border as a habitat mitigation project related to construction of the Port's Mount Baker Terminal, a satellite shipping facility that supports the local aerospace supply chain accommodating oversized parts for the 747, 767, 777 and 777X production lines.

This restoration added 1,000 lineal feet of beach material on the east side of the terminal, while also enhancing beach access with paths, benches, picnic tables, and a parking lot. The restoration proved to be an environmental success when environmental review determined the site to be flourishing with juvenile salmon, forage fish, and numerous water birds shortly after completion. [Learn More](#)

Jetty Island

Known by most as a hub for recreation, the 1,500-acre manmade island doubles as a thriving wildlife preserve supporting natural habitat for many species, including juvenile salmon, waterfowl, bald eagles, and more. The island was created more than a century ago with dredge sands from the Snohomish River. Through the Port's local sponsorship of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging program for the river, whenever possible, additional clean river sediment is beneficially placed on the island to support habitat enhancement. [Explore Jetty Island](#)

Union Slough

Nearly two decades ago, in 2005, the Port of Everett constructed the 24-acre Union Slough, a restoration project as mitigation for development of the Port's Pacific Terminal at the international seaport. The site has since provided mitigation for several Port projects, including construction of the North Docks, which added 220-slips to the Marina in 2007.

Today, aquatic bird life, Dungeness crab, juvenile salmonids, and many other forms of wildlife and plant life are now observed on what was once a diked agricultural field. Working with the volunteer organization EarthCorps, the Port monitors the human impact on its Union Slough restoration ecosystems and conducts regular volunteer work parties at the site to ensure continued success of this restoration project. [Learn More](#)

Snohomish Conservation District

[Bridges Over Barriers: Supporting Fish Habitat](#)

Haystack Creek, with its plentiful vegetation and woody debris, has enough organic matter to delight any fish looking to spawn. Replaced a culvert and opened 2.6 miles of salmon habitat. Replanted native vegetation.



Haystack Creek

Allen Creek

The Snohomish Conservation District has secured 2 grants from the Washington Department of Ecology to restore 22 acres of Allen Creek at Jennings Park in Marysville. These restoration projects will focus on planting the floodplain with native trees and shrubs that will replace the invasive plants and provide the much-needed shade to the creek. (See Page 13 for photo)

Continued on Page 13



Restoring Rivers One Creek at a Time

If you're driving along State Route 530 towards Darrington, you might overlook a quiet creek nestled beneath the mountains. Don't let its small stature fool you, however. Ashton Creek holds something of immense value: cold water. Working with landowners to restore stream buffers.

Stillaguamish Tribe

Zis a ba

Juvenile salmon are using the new habitat at *zis a ba* in the Stillaguamish estuary, where the Stillaguamish Tribe restored tidal flow in October 2017. The project comprises 88 acres and three miles of tidal channels.

Formerly part of the tidal marshes connected to Port Susan and south Skagit Bay, *zis a ba* had been isolated from the river and tides by a dike built more than 100 years ago to protect a homestead from flooding. The tribe purchased the property in 2012 with the intention of setting back the dikes to create more rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, especially chinook. It was named *zis a ba* for a former tribal chief.

Continued on Page 14

At Gold Basin, a river is moved to save endangered salmon



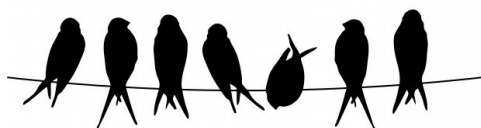
The South Fork Stillaguamish River runs through a new location past a man-made meander jam, a large woody material jam, and a live crib wall to help guide its new course in Verlot. (Olivia Vanni / The Herald)

A landslide had been dumping more than 40,000 tons of silt a year into the river. Not anymore. The project moved the river away from the slide area to prevent silt from entering the river.

Acquisitions and habitat restoration

This tribe is acquiring key river waterfront parcels along the most productive habitat areas and restoring naturally functioning habitat.

Acquisition is the only way to protect habitat in the long term. 🍂



Mark Your Calendars!

Sno-Isle Food Co-op's Register Roundup Supports PAS This Month!

Each month, the [Sno-Isle Food Co-op](#) selects a local nonprofit to be the beneficiary of their Register Roundup program. **This year, Pilchuck Audubon has been selected as the benefitting nonprofit for the month of June!**

How does it work?

Every trip to the Co-op, shoppers have the option to round up to the nearest dollar with their Register Roundup program. At the end of the month, the selected nonprofit will receive the total amount donated by their customers through the Register Roundup program.

We hope you'll frequent the Sno-Isle Co-op in June, and when asked, round up your purchase to support PAS! And help us spread the word with your friends!

The Sno-Isle Food Co-op is located at 2804 Grand Avenue, Everett. 🍂

Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- Student \$15
 - Senior \$30
 - Adult \$35
 - Family \$50
 - Lifetime Member (one-time payment)..... \$1,000
 - Donation..... \$ _____
- My employer will match my contribution
My employer's gift-matching form is enclosed with my contribution

Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter Program Announcements Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website, <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, for the latest information

Birding Trips — See Page 4



In Case You Missed It ...

We certainly miss seeing everyone in person. However, one of the benefits of online programs is that we can record them. We know you all have busy lives and can't always make the live presentations, so in case you missed one, below are the links to watch our line-up of recent programs. Enjoy!

Meadowdale Beach Park Estuary Restoration Project (MBPERP)

[Watch the Recording](#)

Nesting Success and Recruitment of Western and Clark's Grebes in Idaho

Presentation by Anne Yen

[Watch the Recording](#)

Reproductive Ecology of the White-headed Woodpecker in Washington's Ponderosa Pine Forests

Presentation by Jeff Kozma

[Watch the Recording](#)

Panama's Cloud Forest: The Junction of Bird Communities

Presentation by Thomas Bancroft, PhD

[Watch the Recording](#)

Finches of Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Colville, Washington

Presentation by Michael Munts

[Watch the Recording](#)

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.232.6811.

The monthly Profile is available online at

www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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