

November, 2016

HAPPY FALL RENEWAL!

These salmon would like to remind us of what we all know — that humanity can do better in our relationship with Earth — how we live here and how we use her resources.

Here at Stillwaters, we work to help others live a more sustainable life, living gently on the land. We strive to be the change we want to see. By using our own lives as a learning laboratory, we can be confident in reaching out and encouraging others to make changes towards a more satisfying and resilient life for themselves, their family, and their community.



Here at Stillwaters, we have learned to value evidence and how it can persuade others to understand what we know. We look for proof that our work on complex systems matters, and that the human community will thrive when we are inspiring and educating those we work with.

A few years ago, we reached a landmark in our work — the culmination of many years of effort — when the 1st of the undersized culverts was replaced with a 90' bridge on S. Kingston. Now we are getting ready to see the second bridge constructed in 2017, replacing the 2nd tiny culvert under W. Kingston Road. With these very critical culvert replacements has come an enormous focus on science, research, monitoring, and field education for university students and interns.

This has been a time to reflect both on our Stillwaters accomplishments, as well as to reimagine our role going into the future. Our Staff and Board has been working for some time on refining our focus to be the most useful to our community and to the land. The result of that work, so far, is an excellent, concise vision statement and re-defined mission:

Stillwaters has a vision of healthy Puget Sound lowland streams and estuaries.

We do this by advancing scientific research, education, and restoration on Puget Sound lowland streams and estuaries.

And this mission led us to select three major goals for the next five years:

Goal 1: Establish and operate Stillwaters as a science institute focused on watershed research in the Puget Sound region.

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the Carpenter Creek watershed and estuary.

Goal 3: Prepare Stillwaters to be a strong organization going into the future.

The biggest pieces of the restoration, preservation, and protection work in the Carpenter Creek watershed, including our marsh and estuary, will possibly never be complete. Those

of us in North Kitsap know about the pressure for development of land and the related stresses on our water resources and habitat. Smart, sustainable development relies on sound science and data-driven policy.

As we consider the proposed revisions to the county Critical Areas Ordinance, as we consider the effects of a passenger-only-ferry, as we do our best to speak up to tell what we know about the streams and beaches and estuaries around the Sound, we have to make our voices heard on behalf of the health of our Earth! We have faced these development pressures before. This time we humans have to do it right the first time; our ecosystems are not strong enough to go through decades of shock, depletion, and, hopefully, eventual restoration.

Stillwaters will continue to be an advocate for healthy Puget Sound lowland streams and estuaries, through your generosity. We will continue to monitor water ecology. We will continue to inspire citizen scientists to make a difference and train the nature scientists of the future. We will advocate for responsible policies. We will partner with other Puget Sound organizations to leverage our impact. We will do this because we have your support.

Thank you so much for your continued financial support of Stillwaters, and for your efforts in your own life to preserve our natural world. We believe that every flourishing community needs a nature center and a group of citizens like yourself, protecting every natural space that still survives.

Right now we need YOUR help to protect the special places here in the Puget Sound basin. We need your support for the big projects like restoring and monitoring the estuary, for the smaller projects like clearing noxious weeds from our salmon stream, and for giving young and old alike a chance to have their moments in nature – now and for generations to come.

We hope you have a Happy Holidays!



Naomi Maasberg, for the
Volunteers and Staff of Stillwaters Environmental Center

PS. Taxpayers over 70 1/2 are required to make annual distributions (“RMD’s”) from their IRAs, which are then included in their taxable income. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows them to make donations directly to an organization like Stillwaters from their IRAs, without counting those donations as taxable income, and therefore, without paying taxes on them. Contributions need to be made directly from your IRA trustee, and before December 31. Talk to your accountant or your IRA plan administrator for more information.



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