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## **Overview of Earth Day Planting:**

The Klein Farm WRP in Snohomish County has had a hard life struggling with non-native plants and invasive poison hemlock. But recent events have turned the site into an instant forest. The landowner, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, together with NRCS have partnered with the Stilliguamish Tribe Bank Savers Project and the Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Task Force to restore the wetlands and riparian areas. The work includes planting thousands of trees and shrubs, placing large woody debris in the stream and the wetland, placing perch poles, and maintaining the newly planted trees until established.

## **Benefits of a restored wetland:**

The long term vision for this site is a restored wetland, floodplain and riparian zone. As beaver dams expand the flooding of the seasonal wetland area, more waterfowl and shorebird will use this site as a natural habitat. As the trees grow, there will be an influx of neo-tropical migratory birds to the reforested area.

## **Background:**

Klein Farm was a dairy farm until 1996 when the landowner signed up for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and sold the land to Snohomish County Parks and Recreation to be used as a wildlife area. A permanent WRP easement was placed on the 136 acre property in 1996 and restoration efforts began.

A few years later, it was determined that the site was infested with noxious weeds and poison hemlock. Snohomish County Parks and Recreation took control of the weed problem and committed three years of mowing, hand pulling and herbicide to limit the distribution of the poison hemlock. Finally, in 2003, NRCS, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, and the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force met to plan the finishing efforts to the wetland restoration project. Last year, over 3000 trees and shrubs were planted.

## **Partners involved:**

The Klein Farm WRP/ Earth Day planting is a cooperative project with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, and the Stilliguamish Tribe BankSavers.

## **Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force (SSFETF)**

SSFETF has provided hundreds of hours of planning and field work; organizing volunteers, plantings, writing permit applications and this summer will install the long awaited large woody debris in Portage Creek.

## **Snohomish County Parks and Recreation**

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation are the landowners of the wetland restoration project.

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**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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*Portage Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Wetland Restoration ... continued*

They removed the poison hemlock infestation that helped establish the native plants, organized meetings, created maps, and provided on-going support.

**Stilliguamish Tribe/BankSavers**

The Tribe has shown a continued commitment to restoring the wetland restoration project by providing plants and volunteers for the planting events.

**Background on Tom Christensen:**

Mr. Christensen also is responsible for developing national policies and establishing and promulgating programmatic rules, guidelines, and procedures. As Deputy Chief for Programs, he provides national leadership for the operation of conservation programs and activities such as: conservation technical assistance; conservation and area-wide planning; conservation compliance; resource conservation and development; watershed planning, operations, and rehabilitation; conservation security; environmental quality incentives; wetlands reserve; agricultural management assistance; wildlife habitat improvement; and, farmland protection, among others.

**For More Information Contact:**

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