

ROAD MAINTENANCE PRACTICES



The Skagit County Public Works Department is currently revising their road maintenance practices to achieve a more "salmon-friendly" manner of operation. The Department already has taken steps to reduce the risk to salmon by purchasing a new pavement striper that utilizes water-based rather than oil-based paints. County road crew supervisors and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff have met to identify detrimental practices and critical areas that require specific maintenance practices to limit the threat to salmonids. The Operations Division Manager is a member of the Skagit County Salmon Recovery Executive Team, a group formed to keep various county departments abreast of the concerns associated with the Endangered Species Act. Through this forum, the operations division is apprised of the potential effects that the proposed 4(d) rule on listed chinook salmon may have on maintenance practices. The County is aware that certain road practices will require modification when the 4(d) rule is implemented and is willing to make the necessary changes. Skagit County understands the need to limit impacts to salmon and has already taken many steps toward achieving that end.



Skagit County road crews save trouble trees with intact rootwads for use in stream restoration projects.

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Skagit County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is one of seven committees formed to discuss marine resource issues in Northern Puget Sound. The Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) is the regional group that supports the MRCs through grants, coordination with appropriate governmental agencies, and training on marine resource issues. Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Jack Metcalf convened the Northwest Straits Citizens' Advisory Commission in 1997 in response to declining marine life and habitat in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Northern Puget Sound.

Skagit County established the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee in May 1999. In December of 1999, the MRC members were officially appointed, creating a diverse group of interests concerned with the condition of Skagit County's marine resources. These interests include the County, two municipalities, three tribes, one environmental group, an agricultural research facility, a refinery, commercial and recreational fishing interests, boating groups, and concerned citizens.

The Skagit County MRC recently received a grant to study rocky reef habitat within the county. The project will involve public outreach to educate various community and recreational interest groups on the Marine Resources Committee and the status of rocky reef habitat and bottomfish in Skagit County.

- Established through a grant from the Northwest Straits Commission.
- Purpose is to discuss marine related issues and determine action items to enhance and protect marine habitat.
- Key committee task is to involve and educate public about marine resource issues.
- Committee Representation: Skagit County & Cities, Tribes, environmental, refinery, commercial and recreational fishing, recreational boating, private citizens.
- Received grant to assess rocky reef habitat in Skagit County.
- Currently formulating a work plan to prioritize marine resource issues, including shoreline inventories, shellfish bed closures and water quality, and nearshore/estuarine habitats.

