



WASHINGTON CENTER
— @ THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE —

CURRICULUM FOR THE BIOREGION INITIATIVE

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

“SOUND LEARNING COMMUNITIES: EXPLORING THE SALISH SEA”

A SUMMER FIELD COURSE ABOUT RESTORING PUGET SOUND

AUGUST 13-17, 2012



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The Curriculum for the Bioregion Initiative announces a five-day field course for college and university faculty members teaching in northern Puget Sound, the week of August 13-17, 2012. This interdisciplinary course will offer a stimulating immersion in place-based learning about the health of Puget Sound and its surrounding communities and watersheds. “Sound Learning Communities: Exploring the Salish Sea” aims to inspire and prepare its participants to integrate the Puget Sound story into a variety of undergraduate classes.

The Washington Center's Curriculum for the Bioregion initiative is collaborating with People For Puget Sound to offer this course, which will bring together faculty members from different disciplinary backgrounds to learn with and from invited experts and key organizations involved with North Puget Sound protection and restoration.



The course itself will run for four full days (8:30 a.m. to about 4:30 pm) Monday-Thursday and for a half-day on Friday. We will spend most of the course in the field but we will also create time for conversations about integrating the Puget Sound story into our various classes and programs.

Taking a systems approach, the course will focus on how scientific, cultural, political, and economic choices are brought to bear on complex, dynamic problems. Course features will include a day-cruise out of Anacortes on the *Lightkeeper*, a Northwest Schooner Society teaching ship; we will explore the Fidalgo and Samish Bay ecosystems and Puget Sound's geological setting and human history. On subsequent days in the field, we will travel to the headwaters of the Skagit River watershed to explore issues of land ownership, preservation of ecosystem services, and the complexity of managing salmon and hydropower. We also explore the community's 50-year vision for Skagit Valley and its urban/rural interface. Downstream, we will study issues of critical estuarine restoration and shellfish farming. We will also take up the hotly contested proposal to move coal on trains through our communities in the region. Together, we will share ideas (across our various disciplines) for integrating these issues into our respective course. Plan on an exciting, fast-moving week!



The course faculty includes **Claus Svendsen**, Department Chair of Environmental Conservation, Skagit Valley College; **Grace Wang**, Associate Professor, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University; **Jennifer Gerend**, faculty member in regional planning at The Evergreen State College, **Ann Butler** and **Heather Trim** (Director of Community Education and Policy Director for People For Puget Sound), and **Jean MacGregor** (Director, Curriculum for the Bioregion Initiative), and many resource experts.

Grants from the Norcliffe Foundation and the Sustainable Path Foundation will support most costs of the course, including field-trip transportation, resources, and resource faculty.

We invite faculty members from any discipline at community colleges and four-year institutions in Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties to attend. A nominal registration fee of \$35 per person will partially cover costs of field learning and resources. Participants will need to provide their own transportation daily to agreed-upon meeting points (at Skagit Valley College, Anacortes, and Western Washington University) on different course days and will be asked to make a commitment to attend the entire five-day course.

Registration deadline for campus teams from Edmonds, Everett, Skagit Valley, and Whatcom Communities Colleges, and Trinity Lutheran College: May 18, 2012.

For faculty at Western Washington University: applicants will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. Please correspond directly with Jean MacGregor (contact info. below)

For further information, contact Jean MacGregor at macgjean@evergreen.edu, or 360.867.6608.

Tentative Schedule for Sound Learning Communities: Exploring the Salish Sea

Monday August 13	Tuesday August 14	Wednesday August 15	Thursday August 16	Friday August 17
<p>Opening keynote address: Jewell James, Lummi Tribe</p> <p>Getting situated in the Salish Sea using Google Earth tools.</p> <p>The state of Puget Sound from multiple perspectives.</p> <p>Using a systems approach to describe, analyze, and understand complex problems.</p>	<p>Day cruise on the <i>Lightkeeper</i>: Geologic history of the Sound and marine ecology.</p> <p>What scientists are telling us about the Sound’s health, the state of orca whale populations, nearshore habitat health and eelgrass beds.</p> <p>Legacy contamination</p> <p>Emerging marine reserves.</p>	<p>Upstream field trip: the forest to Sound connection:</p> <p>Skagit Valley headwaters</p> <p>Managing for salmon <i>and</i> hydropower</p> <p>Wildland management and trade-offs</p> <p>The Skagit Futures Project: “Envision 2060”</p>	<p>Downstream and nearshore field trip:</p> <p>Estuarine restoration</p> <p>The challenges of protecting shellfish beds.</p> <p>Local to global: Case study on coal trains and coal exports.</p>	<p>The role of policy in the Sound’s health: update from People For Puget Sound staff and policy experts</p> <p>Curriculum planning time</p> <p>Course evaluation and wrap-up by 12:30 PM</p>