

Discovering Purpose Through Community Activity A Watershed Stewards' Tale

Dick Doi took Watershed Stewards' fall training in 2000 as a way to become more involved in the community. Little did he know his effort to meet a few new friends and fill his spare time with useful work would change his life. Dick grew up in Hawaii, but spent much of his adult life in California and Illinois. When he saw the announcement of Watershed Stewards training, he thought it would provide him with a little knowledge about his new home.

During the training, Dick was particularly intrigued by local efforts to restore salmon runs. His favorite presentation about local salmon habitat projects by Fish First member Dick Dyrland, led him to volunteer to help Dyrland survey large sections of the lower East Fork of the Lewis River and its tributaries. During these surveys, Dick's knowledge expanded along with his commitment to improving salmon habitat.



Dick shows new Watershed Stewards a restoration project during a field trip.

Dick then volunteered to help with Fish First's habitat enhancement projects and was charged with assembling materials and working with subcontractors. He tapped into his contacts through the Watershed Stewards to obtain unusual materials, such as 18 foot long root wads and two ton rocks for placement in the stream. He now provides a wide array of volunteer opportunities for Watershed Stewards, including tree planting and monitoring the effectiveness of enhancement projects.

Dick generously shares information he has learned. He teaches the habitat enhancement portion of Watershed Stewards training and speaks to community groups. He also staffs the Watershed Stewards booth at many public events. He works with a wide variety of community and government organizations to promote salmon habitat enhancement and improve the image of both the Stewards and Fish First.

While many Watershed Stewards become more committed to environmental ideals as a result of the training and community involvement, few change as dramatically as Dick. While involved in community activities before becoming a Steward, he never committed to any cause as he is to the salmon of the Pacific Northwest. "If we can save the salmon, it shows that the Pacific Northwest is truly the last great place in America," says Dick. If more of us follow Dick's example, there is no doubt that we will save the salmon.

For more information or to get involved in Watershed Stewards projects contact:

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