



Stewardship Partners Volunteer Event at Oxbow Farm

Where can you find certified organic vegetables, tree fruits and berries grown alongside native plants in protective hedgerows? At Oxbow Farm, of course! Oxbow Farm's 10 acres of farmland are bordered by the meandering Snoqualmie River and a horseshoe-shaped "oxbow" lake that provide prime habitat for young salmon.

Conventional farming causes erosion, chemical runoff and habitat loss that can damage fish populations. However, Oxbow Farm is committed to improving the health of its fish and wildlife habitat while maintaining a productive farm. To accomplish this, they use fish-friendly farm practices suggested by Salmon-Safe, including:

- planting native vegetation to protect and restore stream banks
- keeping fields cover cropped to minimize erosion into streams
- efficient use of irrigation water
- using natural weed and pest control methods instead of toxic chemicals

Led by Stewardship Partners staff, YESC members from around the Seattle area converged on Oxbow Farm on October 11th to help remove invasive blackberries, harvest organic leeks, and help keep the farm Salmon Safe! It was a beautiful sunny day, everyone learned a lot, worked hard, and by the end of the day we were ready for bed. Oxbow Farm sent the volunteers home with armloads of various local-veggies including some we harvested ourselves. It was a fun-filled and fascinating day.

Check out Salmon Safe guidelines at:

www.stewardshippartners.org/salmon_steward.html