

FALL 2010  
**PRKC Post**  
 Issue 8  
 WILD-LIFE!

# PRKC

STEWARDSHIP in ACTION



## PREVENT Conflict with Black Bears

Guest Author, Cathy Macchio



**American Black Bear**

Copyright ©1997-2005  
 Washington Department of Fish  
 and Wildlife

The American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) population in Washington State is estimated to be between 25,000 and 30,000. Although bears usually avoid people, they may become dangerous when people get too close to them. As people move into bear habitat throughout Washington State, bear and human encounters are inevitably increasing. State wildlife offices receive hundreds of calls each year concerning black bear sightings, property damage, bear attacks on livestock and pets, and bear confrontations with people. According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, 95% of these calls are the result of people not acting responsibly. Here's what you can do to avoid conflict:

- Never approach or feed bears.
- Put garbage cans out shortly before the truck arrives and not the night before. Keep garbage stored in your garage, in a sturdy shed or a bear resistant container.
- Rinse all cans and bottles before placing them in the recycle bin.
- Only put plant material in compost bins.
- Clean your barbecue after use.
- Feed pets indoors and keep them indoors at night.
- Feed birds only in winter when bears are hibernating.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees and the ground.

### Inside this issue:

- Page 1: Bears, Calendar, Classifieds
- Page 2: SiA News, Wounded Animals, Personal Story
- Page 3: PBRs FAQs & Application Help
- Page 4-5: Bats, Workshops, Wildlife Links and Backyard Certifications
- Page 6: Future of King County Farms, Reporting Dangerous Wildlife

### Save the Date!

- **Oct 4:** Free Workshop for Horse Owners: Fall into Winter, Fall City Library
- **Oct 14:** Free Workshop for Gardeners: The Scoop on Poop, Chief Kanium Middle School
- **Oct 14:** Keep Farms Part of King County: Local Farming Open House, Vincent School House
- **Nov 3:** PBRs Application Help, Fall City Library
- **Nov 6:** SiA/KCD Restoration Work Part y, Fall City

Visit [www.PRKC.org/calendar](http://www.PRKC.org/calendar) for details.

### CLASSIFIEDS

- ⇒ **SiA Grant \$\$\$ is almost used up!** If you have a project you would like to get done, and you have not submitted a grant application please email [info@prkc.org](mailto:info@prkc.org) ASAP. Grants up to \$5,000 per project, first come, first served!
- ⇒ **Do you know anyone in KERRISTON?** This community is off of WA 18, and also in the Raging River Basin. The **SiA** Core Team would like to learn if landowners are interested in the **SiA** Program.
- ⇒ Love **Natural Arts & Crafts?** Would you like to take a class, or teach a class? Contact Fall City Arts and Sharlet Driggs with your questions & ideas for future planning: [sharletrd@aol.com](mailto:sharletrd@aol.com) Member, Sharlet Driggs- [sharletrd@aol.com](mailto:sharletrd@aol.com)



## THE RAGING RIVER PROJECT WON A GRANT!

## Congratulations to PRKC and SiA!

On behalf of the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors, congratulations on the award of a King Conservation District – Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Opportunity Fund grant in the amount of \$24,050 for the Partnership for Rural King County *Stewardship in Action (SiA) Raging River Project*. The District is pleased to support your project and looks forward to successful implementation of the scope of work.

In the near future, you will receive a draft Agreement for Award of a King Conservation District – Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Opportunity Fund Grant to be signed by PRKC representatives. Prior to receiving the Agreement, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the grant award or the agreement process.

*Brandy Reed, Senior Program Specialist, King Conservation District*

### Note from the Editor:

Community leaders responsible for this successful Grant are:

—Jen Harrison-Cox, PRKC, Tor Bell, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust; Collin McDonald, Restoration Logistics; the SiA Core Team: Kristi McClelland, Greg Rabourn, Allyson Schrier, and Sandy Prescott — PRKC and SiA appreciatively thank the King Conservation District in their support of protecting the Raging River.

## What to do if you discover wounded or orphaned animals?

PAWS has cared for more than 260 different species over the last few decades. Some examples include baby beavers, western grebes, loons, black bears, bobcat, bald eagles, barn owls, bats, deer fawn, raccoons, woodpeckers, river otter, crows, and squirrels. They also partner with other rehab organizations to help exchange expertise and manage capacity. They have a great relationship with Bats Northwest, for example. If you have found a wounded or orphaned animal, please call **PAWS Wildlife Center at 425.787.2500 x817**. The Center can answer questions, help determine the best course of action or help identify an appropriate rehabilitator for injured/orphaned wildlife.

## A Personal Story: **Twin Falls State Park—Enjoying the Wild Life** by guest author David Brettlinger

I felt like experiencing a new wilderness environment close to my urban home. I packed some essentials and headed to east King County. The trail was short but full of native vegetation and wildlife. Just off of and south of exit 34 from I 90, east of North Bend, is a place to park and put on the hiking boots, a family favorite called **Twin Falls State Park**. You'll quickly experience solitude within the old growth Douglas fir and sounds of the Snoqualmie's South Fork. It is pleasantly surprising that such serene surroundings can be found this close to an urban village—a perfect first encounter, regardless of age. I was soon greeted by a brood of Stellar Jays interrupted by my passing. Shortly after, a red squirrel sounded off at my presence. Nothing, and no one, goes unnoticed in the woods. It was wonderful to be in such natural surrounding so close to home. The trail ends at a waterfall and natural pool. The river sounds loudly with its downward energy. This is a good place to have a sit and reflect.

## Hands-On Appointments for PBRs and Current Use Applications

**November 3, 2010: 6-9pm, Fall City Library.** The Stewardship in Action Team and King County staff will be at the library helping landowners with Public Benefit Rating System and Current Use Taxation (Ag and Timber Cut) Applications. This state program provides property tax reductions for landowners who are keeping or restoring their property to natural conditions. We will help you with the application and generate the maps and documents you need right there. Email [info@prkc.org](mailto:info@prkc.org) to reserve a 30 min time slot.

## TRUTH VS. MYTHS! PBRS—The Public Benefit Rating System

Guest Author: Ted Sullivan, PBRS Program Manager  
Protecting sensitive land **reduces** your taxes.



King County PBRS Program (M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

E-mail: Ted.Sullivan@kingcounty.gov TEL: (206) 205-5170

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnpr/library/archive-documents/wlr/lands/doc/PBRSResInfo0405.doc>



**The Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS)** reduces property taxes to citizens who preserve open space on private property in King County. PBRS properties are assessed a "current use" tax value, which is lower than the "highest and best use" tax value that would otherwise apply. Points are assigned to each resource protection category, as described in King County's *PBRS Information* document ([www.kingcounty.gov/incntives](http://www.kingcounty.gov/incntives)). The total points awarded translate into a 50% to 90% tax reduction for the portion of the property used to qualify. Personal use areas, such as your home, landscaping and driveway do not qualify for **PBRS**. Qualifying property must contain beneficial open space resources, therefore, that area of the enrolled property's future use may be restricted to protect the resource.

- **Will my real estate tax of \$5,500 really be reduced by up to 90%?** PBRS tax savings apply only to the land enrolled. If your property has areas for personal use, such as your home, shed and garden, you will not include those areas in your application. The area of land excluded from **PBRS** does not receive a tax reduction. For example, if you have 5 acres and your home, shop and lawn comprise 1 acre, you may enroll 4 acres in PBRS and receive up to 90% off the taxes for those 4 acres. **The bottom line? - Most properties receive a reduction ranging from \$700—\$2500 each year** – a savings reflecting the appraised value of the land and the land's resource protection.
- **Can my savings be retroactive?** No. Your tax savings applies toward the following year's tax bill. Enrolling by the December 31, 2010 deadline will reduce your taxes for the year 2012 tax assessment.
- **Do I need to reapply?** Once enrolled you're in. To increase your **PBRS** points on already enrolled land, and/or to add acreage, you do need to reapply.
- **Can I withdraw after ten years and owe nothing back?** No. If any **PBRS** enrolled land is withdrawn or removed, the owner must repay the most recent 7-year savings received on enrolled land. Interest will apply, and (if no advanced notification was given), a penalty will be charged.
- **Will county staff or the public now be able come onto my property?** **PBRS** enrollment doesn't mean your land is accessible by the general public (unless you're receiving PBRS points specifically for public access). **PBRS** staff may schedule a visit to monitor your resource protection status. Otherwise, enrollment does not provide additional access by anyone.
- **Can I remove a tree in the open space area that's about to fall on my house?** Health and safety come first, so the answer is yes. We suggest a photo be taken before removal. Then contact the agency responsible for clearing permits, perhaps consult with an arborist, and then contact **PBRS** staff.
- **Can I enroll just my wetland area, since I can't do anything with it anyway?** No. **PBRS** enrollment is to protect land beyond what is already required by existing regulations. If you enroll additional area, however, you may include your wetlands in your open space application and receive tax savings for the area including the wetlands.
- **How do I start the process?** The owner must file a **PBRS** application. Please note this application is **not** a test of your **PBRS** knowledge! **PBRS** staff are your advocates and are here to help you. **PBRS** is complex and easily misunderstood. Volunteers with the **Stewardship in Action (SiA) Core Team** and staff from the King County Current Use program will be answering questions and assisting landowners in filling out applications on November 3 at the Fall City Library. Email [info@prkc.org](mailto:info@prkc.org) to make an appointment.



**Guest Author, Meg Lunnun, Board of Directors, Bats Northwest**

**BATS: MISUNDERSTOOD AND UNAPPRECIATED WILDLIFE!**

[WWW.BATSNORTHWEST.ORG](http://WWW.BATSNORTHWEST.ORG)



**Lasionycterus noctivagans**

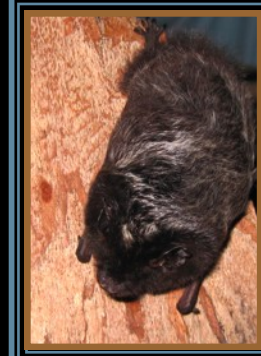


Photo © Meg Lunnun,  
Bats Northwest.org

Fall has arrived and it's time to watch for Silver Haired bats hibernating in your wood pile. Once we believed that the Silver Haired bat, **Lasionycterus noctivagans**, migrated. However, in recent years, they've been found well after local bat populations were thought to have left the area. Most silver haired bats do migrate. Ironically the increased use of wind turbines for sustainable power causes concern for the bat's ability to safely circumnavigate around the turbines.

Other common bat species that co-habitate with humans are the Big Brown Bat, **Eptesicus fuscus**; little brown bat, **Myotis lucifugus**; **Myotis yumanensis**, the Yuma bat and the California bat, **Myotis californicus**. These are the bats that commonly roost in your attic or eaves. Pregnant bats are drawn to 100+ degree roosts in order to have their pups. The bat pups must be adult size and flying by the time their families start leaving for the usual hibernation sites. The heat helps the pups mature in time for the fall migration/hibernation.

Photo © Michael Durham



Photo: Edited for presentation.

[www.DurmPhoto.com](http://www.DurmPhoto.com)

**Myotis yumanensis**

Do you have bats? If they're roosting in your eaves, you'll find bat guano on the deck which can put it in your garden soil. If you suspect you have bats, go out at dusk and look for them. A local source of ideas for bat friendly habitat is **Russell Link's** book, **Landscaping for Wildlife**. Build your own rocket box bat house from [www.batsnorthwest.org](http://www.batsnorthwest.org). Just remember bats like it hot, they like their house up high (12-15 feet), they need a landing pad, and they love small spaces (3/4"). You can plant insect attracting/night blooming Native flowers. Don't touch bats without wearing gloves, especially if the bat is on the ground. In the fall, the juvenile bats are learning to fly and some can't take off from the ground. They just need to be placed, with gloves, in a higher location, so they can fly to freedom.

Bats are the one mammal in our state that is a rabies vector species. Infected bats carry the rabies virus in their saliva, potentially transmitting the disease when biting. If possible, capture and take a bat that has inflicted a bite to your county health department for testing. In 2009, 14 bats tested positive for rabies in WA State. The best protections is to be informed: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or your county health department.

**Myotis californicus**



Submitted by Bob Boekelheide,  
Director, Dungeness River  
Audubon Center, Sequim

One of the greatest threats to bat populations is loss of habitat. Bats are very loyal to their roosts. If their usual roost is unavailable, they'll move into a bat house if near to their old roost.

Bats Northwest is a non-profit bat advocacy group helping protect Pacific Northwest bat populations through education and research. Our web site has great information about bats, as well as about our activities and bat links. For questions, suggestions, or comments, please send to: [info@batsnorthwest.org](mailto:info@batsnorthwest.org).



By Greg Rabourn, **Stewardship in Action (SiA)** Team Member

Email: [Greg.Rabourn@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Greg.Rabourn@kingcounty.gov) Office: 206-296-1923, [www.kingcounty.gov/gonative](http://www.kingcounty.gov/gonative)

Please contact Greg, above, to register and for more information.

● **FALL INTO PLACE FOR WINTER: PREPARING YOUR HORSE PROPERTY FOR WINTER**

**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2010 **Environmental Equine Education**  
**Time:** 6:30pm-8:45pm  
**Place:** Fall City Library, 33415 SE 42nd Place, Fall City, WA



Join **Alayne Bickle** of **Horses for Clean Water** and get tips and ideas to prepare horse and live-stock properties for winter. Learn budget-saving tips and low-tech ideas for handling mud in high traffic areas, choosing footings for paddocks, getting gutters and downspouts in working order, handling stall waste, eliminating pesky rodents, keeping water supplies from freezing -- and more! Learn more about **Alayne** at: [www.horsesforcleanwater.com](http://www.horsesforcleanwater.com)

● **THE SCOOP ON POOP: USING ANIMAL MANURE TO CREATE A HEALTHY GARDEN**



**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2010  
**Time:** 7pm-8 pm  
**Place:** Chief Kanim Middle School library  
32627 SE Fall City-Redmond Road, Fall City, WA 98024

Spend an evening with Marianne Binetti learning how to use this common resource to improve your soils, your plants and your veggie production. What type is best? Is manure safe to use with veggies? Will my roses smell like rabbits? Using animal manure in your garden is a great way to use a local inexpensive resource that will keep your garden thriving. You'll also learn where to find neighbors looking to provide you with this gardening treasure. To learn more about Marianne, visit [www.binettigarden.com](http://www.binettigarden.com)

**For NW Gardeners**

**WILDLIFE LINKS:**

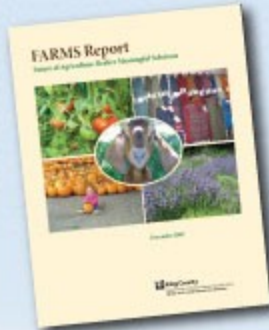
- [WDFW Living with Wildlife Database](#)
- [PAWS Wildlife Center](#)
- [Eastside Audubon Society \(ELWAS\)](#)
- [Bats Northwest](#)
- [Black Bear and Grizzly Bear information](#)
- [BugGuide.net](#)
- [WDFW Crossing Paths Online Magazine](#)
- [Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)
- [A Land Manager's Guide to Breeding Bird Habitat in Young Conifer Forests in the Pacific Northwest](#)
- [Cornell Lab of Ornithology: All About Birds](#)
- [eNature field guides, ask an expert, etc.](#)

**WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATIONS FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS:**

- [Washington State Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program](#)
- [Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat](#)

## Interested in the future of farming?

Get together with your local farmers to discuss how we can help keep farms a part of King County's landscape as outlined in the 2010 FARMS Report.



*The meetings are open to everyone interested in good farming and what it takes to bring local food to our tables.*

### Workshops will be held:

**Thursday, Sept 23rd, 7-9 p.m.**

Auburn City Hall  
25 W Main Street  
Auburn, WA 98001

**Thursday, October 14th, 7-9 p.m.**

The Vincent School House  
8010 W. Snoqualmie Valley Rd. NE  
Carnation, WA 98014

**Tuesday, November 9th, 7-9 p.m.**

Enumclaw High School  
226 Semanski St.  
Enumclaw, WA 98022



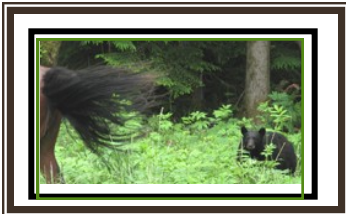
King County

### For more information:

Claire Dykman at 206-859-9930 or  
claire.dykman@kingcounty.gov  
Website: [www.kingcounty.gov/ag](http://www.kingcounty.gov/ag)

## To report dangerous wildlife:

Contact the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1-877-933-9847. If it's an emergency, dial 9-1-1.



### For additional information about black bears:

- ◆ [Grizzly Bear Outreach Project](#)
- ◆ [Living with Wildlife: Black Bears](#)
- ◆ [Bear Smart Program](#)

**Learn more from the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project:** [www.bearinfo.org](http://www.bearinfo.org)

"Promoting an accurate understanding of grizzly bears and their recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem through community education and involvement."



**Who is PRKC?**  
**We are your neighbors!**

PRKC is a group of your neighbors who set up the Stewardship in Action (SiA) community-based land stewardship program. Along with our Partners below, our goal is to assist **Patterson Creek** and **Raging River Basins** landowners protect the natural resources on their property . We truly are your neighbors!

**What is the SiA Project?**  
**(Stewardship in Action)**

Goals for the **SiA** are to:

1. Offer assistance to landowners with **FREE** technical assistance and financial incentives to protect the natural resources of their property;
2. Create a large number of connected properties whose owners are committed to improving or protecting the natural resources on privately owned/managed land;
3. Develop a locally grown, sustainable community network that provides ongoing stewardship assistance;
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Project.



web: [www.prkc.org](http://www.prkc.org)  
 e-mail: [info@prkc.org](mailto:info@prkc.org)  
 mail: PO Box 1018  
 Fall City, WA 98024

**WILD-LIFE**  
**Issue 8**

**PRKC Post**  
**FALL 2010**

*We're your neighbors!*



The **SiA** is funded through a generous US Environmental Protection Agency Grant.

"This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement WS-96074801-1 to King County. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use."