



## **City Forest Credits Planting Project Application**

Note: This is the second planting site under the Pierce Conservation District Reforestation Program – 2020 Planting Sites.

### **1. Project Name**

Pierce Conservation District Reforestation Program – 2020 Project  
Site #2: South Prairie Creek Preserve – Interior Floodplain Planting

### **2. Project Type**

Planting project

### **3. Project Location**

Unincorporated Pierce County, approximately one mile west of the town of South Prairie, WA.  
Reference address for project: 13518 Pioneer Way East, Orting WA 98360.

### **4. Project Operator**

*Organization:* Pierce Conservation District

*Address:* P.O. Box 1057

*City:* Puyallup

*State:* WA

*Zip:* 98371

*Contact(s):* Jayme Gordon

*Phone:* (253) 845-9770 ext. 102

*Email:* jaymeg@pierced.org

### **5. Project Description**

This project will restore native vegetation to an estimated 7.65 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along South Prairie Creek, a tributary to the Carbon River in the Puyallup-White River watershed. Planting will take place in an area that lies between a newly constructed, half-mile long side channel and the right bank of South Prairie Creek.

This planting is part of a larger project to improve salmon habitat and restore floodplain processes. The project site had been utilized as pasture for many decades and is characterized by a mix of mostly non-native grasses and invasive weeds. Ultimately, a total of approximately 40 acres will be planted; prior to excavation and in-stream construction, 9.8 acres were planted Fall 2017-Spring 2020, and the remainder of the site will be planted over the course of two planting seasons. This application represents some of the planting scheduled to occur in the 2020-2021 season and the remainder of the site expected to be planted 2021-2022.

## 6. Project Benefits

This planting is part of a larger project to improve salmon habitat and restore floodplain processes in a high priority stretch of South Prairie Creek. Construction of a half-mile side channel and instream improvements to a half-mile of South Prairie Creek are intended to support adult to juvenile out-migrant survival and productivity for spawning, rearing, foraging, migrating, and overwintering life history stages for fall Chinook, Steelhead, Coho, Chum, Pink, and Cutthroat and Bull Trout.

However, the long-term success of this project – and the long-term achievement of self-sustaining ecosystem processes – depends on establishment of riparian and floodplain plant communities throughout the project site. This planting effort is the final piece of the project. Over time, the trees planted now will provide erosion control; floodplain and riparian habitat and ecosystem processes; shade to lower water temperatures; and contribute to instream habitat diversity, in addition to sequestering carbon.

## 7. Total trees planted and planting-approach

This is a riparian-type planting.

The planting plan submitted in this application is for a 7.65-acre area of former pasture fields. It is bordered to the north by a newly constructed (2020) half-mile long side channel and on the south by the mainstem of South Prairie Creek. Excluded from this application is a 2.65-acre area originally planted in the mid-2000s, a narrow linear strip along the face of the banks of the new side channel, and several small areas that have been reinforced with extra wood and rock (e.g. inlet and outlet of the side channel).

The interior floodplain is planted with a conifer/deciduous tree-shrub mix approximately 8' on center. Bare root material is the primary plant stock suggested. However, live stakes were selected in order to minimize ground disturbance for one area along the right bank of South Prairie Creek where the bank is unstable, and alternate plant material (e.g. 1-gallon pots) may be used based on availability.

**Table 1: Plant List for Interior Floodplain  
(only trees meeting CFC protocols are included)**

Plant Spacing = ~10' on center

Plant Name (common)	Plant Name (scientific)	# of Plants	Stock
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	110	bare root
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	800	bare root
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200	bare root
Black cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	600	bare root
Black cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	50	36" live stake
Oregon ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	150	bare root
Big leaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	485	bare root
Red alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	300	bare root
Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	150	bare root
Vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	220	bare root

**Total: 3065**

See attached map for additional information about the planting plan.

**8. Does your project fall within an Urban Area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, or within the boundaries of a city or town? Choose one.** *Census Bureau mapping information link*

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>

Within an Urban Area

Within a city or town

**9. Additional Information**

This planting occurs on contiguous properties totaling 129 acres owned by both Pierce County and the Pierce Conservation District, and the project as a whole is done in partnership with Pierce County, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. This project is the culmination of a multi-year effort by these partners and others to identify high-priority opportunities to improve endemic salmonid populations, many of which are threatened and endangered.