



City Forest Credits Carbon Planting Project Application

1. Project Name

Pierce Conservation District Reforestation Program
South Prairie Creek Preserve – West Floodplain Planting Project 2021

2. Project Type

Planting

3. Project Location

The project site is located in an Urban Area. The site is in 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/Entity: Pierce Conservation District
Address: P.O. Box 1057
City: Puyallup
State: WA
Zip: 9 8 3 7 1
Contact(s): Ryan Bird
Phone: 253-845-9770 ext. 133
Email: ryanb@pierccd.org

5. Project Description

This project will restore native vegetation to an estimated 9.58 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 Silver Springs Creek, a tributary to South Prairie Creek.

This planting is part of a larger effort to improve salmon habitat and restore floodplain processes. The majority of the project's construction occurred in 2020, including creation of the side channel, instream structures in the mainstem of South Prairie Creek, and installation of engineered wood structures in the floodplain. Approximately 22.1 acres have been planted since the beginning of this restoration effort. The remaining 15.2 acres will be planted in the Fall/Winter 2021-2022 season. This application represents just over 9.5 acres of the remaining acreage to be planted to complete the restoration effort.

Native vegetation in the project area is believed to have been removed by 19th and 20th century settlers in the area. Much of the project site had been used as pasture by a family-owned dairy for many decades, until the property was sold to the Pierce Conservation District ca. 2005. Prior to the start of this project, much of the riparian and floodplain plant community was characterized by a mix of non-native grasses and invasive weeds.

6. Project Impacts

This planting is part of a larger effort 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 carbon planting project is the final piece of the restoration effort. 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. Number of trees to be planted and general planting-design

The planting plan submitted in this application is for a 9.58-acre area of former pasture fields. This project area sits in the center of the District's South Prairie Creek Preserve property. It is bordered to the north by plantings installed in 2017 and 2018 along Silver Springs Creek (a tributary to South Prairie Creek). To the east is a new, half-mile long side channel constructed in 2020; this project goes up to, but does not include, a narrow riparian buffer planted along the new side channel in late 2020. To the west is a backwater slough connected to Silver Springs Creek, and to the south is the mainstem of South Prairie Creek.

The South Prairie Creek Preserve is comprised of 129 acres owned by both the District and Pierce County. However, this project lies entirely within land owned by the Pierce Conservation District and does not cross the property line into the Pierce County parcel(s).

We will use the single-tree canopy planting approach. The project area will be planted with a conifer/deciduous tree-shrub mix of 4,140 plants with a spacing of 10' on center. Approximately 2,000 additional plants and shrubs will also be planted in this area, separate from the carbon project. Bare root material will be the primary plant stock. However, 1-gallon potted plants and live stakes may also be used.

Table 1: Plant List for Interior Floodplain

Plant Spacing = 10' on center

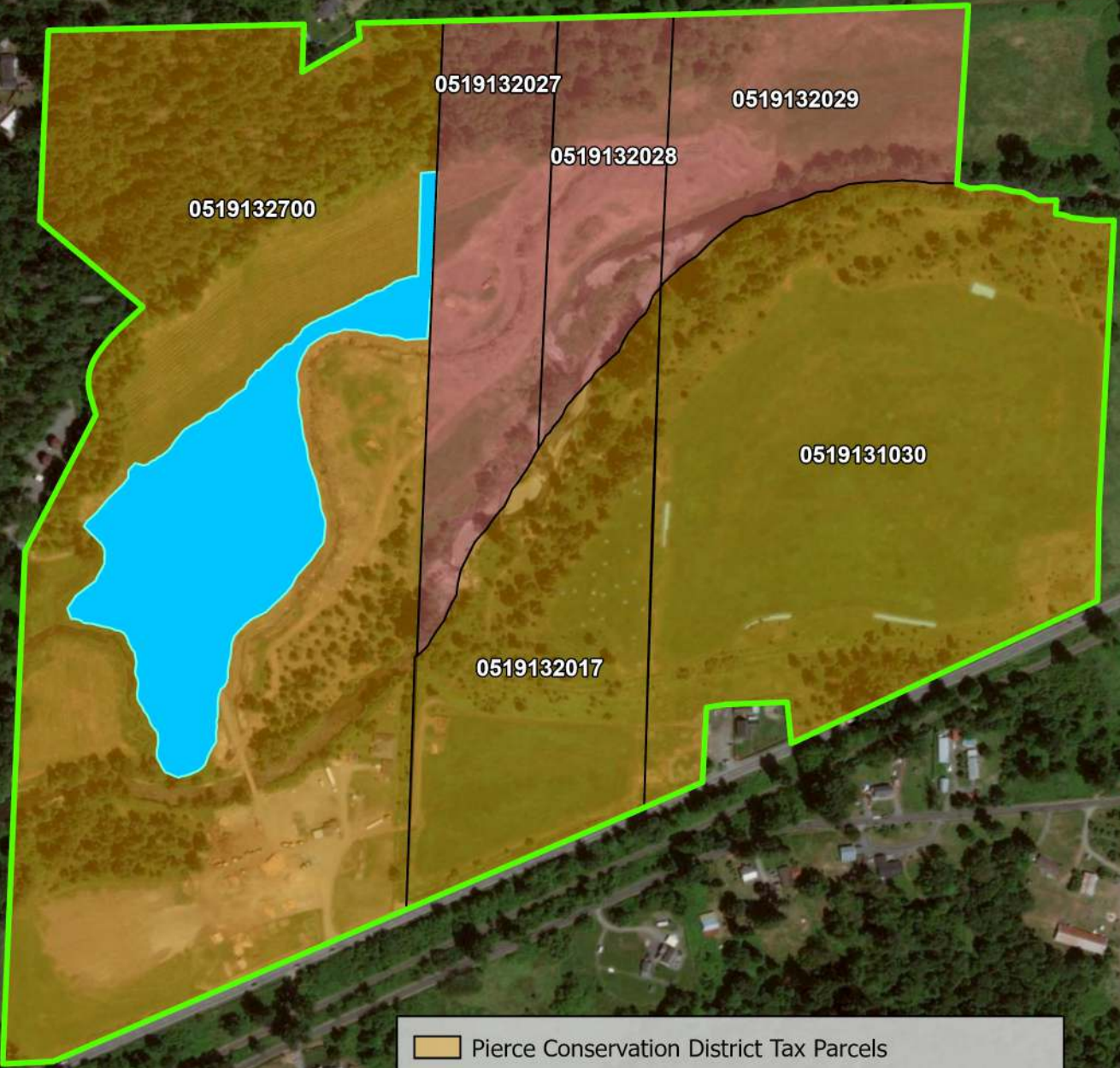
Plant Name (common)	Plant Name (scientific)	# of Plants
Grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	150
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	400
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	925
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	120
Black cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	430
Oregon ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	100
Big leaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	810
Red alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	120
Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	200
Vine maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	325
Sitka willow	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	50
Pacific willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>	25
Bitter cherry	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	85
Cascara	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	70
Beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	300
Pacific crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i>	30

Total: 4,140

See attached map for additional information about the planting plan.

8. Additional Information

This planting occurs on property owned by the Pierce Conservation District, although the larger salmon and floodplain restoration effort occurs on contiguous properties totaling 129 acres owned by both Pierce County and the Pierce Conservation District. The salmon and floodplain restoration 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. Revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits will provide much needed maintenance funding for Pierce Conservation District to steward this site for 25 years.



South Prairie Creek Preserve West Floodplain Planting

ORGANIZATION: Pierce Conservation District
 CARTOGRAPHER: RyanB
 DATE: 5/25/2021

DISCLAIMER: While every precaution was taken in preparing this map, the publisher disclaims any warranty of fitness or accuracy of the data. The map is approximate in nature, based on compilation of data from multiple sources, and should not be relied upon or referenced in legal documents, including property deeds, title reports, and contract documents, nor substituted for appropriate survey and/or engineering analysis. The user of the map acknowledges its limitations, assumes all responsibility for its use, and agrees to hold the publisher harmless for any damages that may result from the use of this map. This map is subject to change without notice.

©Copyright Pierce Conservation District 2021

- Pierce Conservation District Tax Parcels
- Pierce County Surface Water Management Tax Parcels
- South Prairie Creek Preserve
- West Floodplain Planting
- Urban Areas



PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Over 70 Years of Conservation

