



## City Forest Credits Carbon Planting Project Application

### 1. Project Name

*For example, Ballinger Open Space Planting Project*  
Pierce Conservation District Reforestation Program  
2022 Projects  
South Prairie Creek Preserve – North Floodplain Planting Project

### 2. Project Type

Planting

### 3. Project Location

*Projects must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.*

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity such as a utility for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

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**

*Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information*

Organization/Entity: Pierce Conservation District

Address: PO Box 1057

City: Puyallup

State: WA

Zip: 98371

Contact(s): Ryan Bird, Habitat Restoration Manager

Phone: 253-845-9770 ext. 133

Email: ryanb@pierced.org

#### **5. Project Description**

*Provide short narrative including location, number or acres of trees, and overall goals*

This project will restore native vegetation to an estimated 12.16 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 floodplain and riparian areas between a newly constructed half-mile 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. This application represents the remaining 12.16 acres which will be planted during the Fall/Winter 2021-2022 season.

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**

*Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, watershed protection, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.*

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 established vegetation will provide erosion control, improve floodplain and riparian habitat

ecosystem processes, provide shade to lower water temperatures, contribute to instream habitat diversity, and sequester carbon.

### **7. Number of trees to be planted and general planting-design**

*Provide number of trees and general planting design. Tree planting design options include:*

- *single-tree method (spaced 10' or more apart, i.e. street trees or linear plantings)*
- *clustered parks (spaced 10' apart but continuously so to generate canopy over time, i.e. natural areas)*
- *canopy (closely planted with spacing less than 10' apart so to generate canopy and forest ecosystem, high tree mortality expected)*

The planting plan submitted in this application is for a 12.16-acre area of former pasture fields. The project area for this application consists of polygons spread throughout the north floodplain, filling in the remainder of areas that have not been planted. The planting areas are primarily located in the western and central portions of the north floodplain, and are mostly between the newly constructed side channel and planting areas from previous years. There is also one small polygon that borders South Prairie Creek in the southwestern area of the preserve, and one small polygon that borders Silver Springs Creek in the northwestern area of the preserve.

South Prairie Creek Preserve is comprised of 129 acres owned by both the District and Pierce County Surface Water Management. For this application, 2.08 acres are within parcels owned by Pierce County Surface Water Management, and 10.08 acres are within a parcel owned by the Pierce Conservation District.

We will use the clustered planting design and quantification approach. The project area will be planted with a conifer/deciduous tree-shrub mix of 5,842 plants with a spacing of 10' on center. Bare root plants will be the primary plant stock, 1-gallon potted plants will represent a smaller portion of the plant stock, and live stakes may also be used.

| <b>Common Name</b>           | <b>Scientific Name</b> | <b># of Plants</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Abies grandis</i>         | Grand fir              | 220                |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>      | Sitka spruce           | 135                |
| <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> | Douglas fir            | 510                |
| <i>Thuja plicata</i>         | Western red cedar      | 1,120              |
| <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>    | Western hemlock        | 10                 |
| <i>Alnus rubra</i>           | Red alder              | 240                |
| <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>    | Oregon ash             | 170                |
| <i>Populus balsamifera</i>   | Black cottonwood       | 595                |
| <i>Salix sitchensis</i>      | Sitka willow           | 100                |
| <i>Malus fusca</i>           | Pacific crabapple      | 80                 |
| <i>Corylus cornuta</i>       | Beaked hazelnut        | 302                |
| <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>   | Black hawthorn         | 260                |
| <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>     | Cascara                | 100                |
| <i>Acer circinatum</i>       | Vine maple             | 415                |
| <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>     | Red elderberry         | 720                |
| <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>     | Big leaf maple         | 715                |
| <i>Salix lucida</i>          | Pacific willow         | 150                |
|                              | <b>Total</b>           | <b>5,842</b>       |

## **8. Additional Information**

*Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.*

This planting occurs on property owned by the Pierce Conservation District and Pierce County Surface Water Management. The larger scope of the 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 are 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.

Signed by Ryan Bird, Habitat Restoration Manager, for Pierce Conservation District.

*Ryan Bird*

[Ryan Bird \(May 25, 2022 13:24 PDT\)](#)

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Signature

253-845-9770 ext. 133

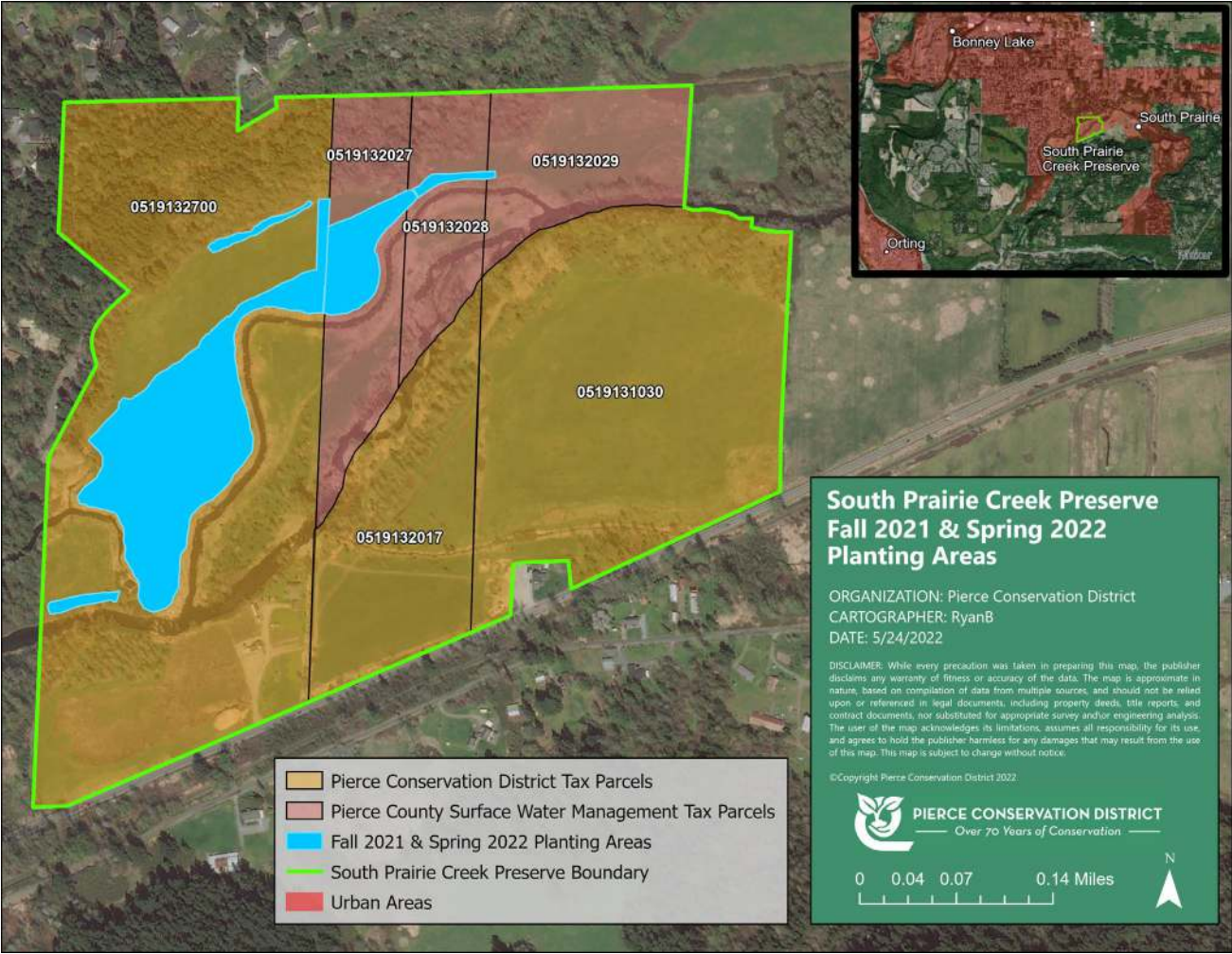
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Phone

[ryanb@pierced.org](mailto:ryanb@pierced.org)

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Email








# PCD 2021-2022 Project Application Final

Final Audit Report

2022-05-25

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|-----------------|--|
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