

W.C.T.U. Launches 'Strategic Relationship' w/ the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest

On Sat. July 16 the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited conducted a BAT training program in the Darrington area to kick off a new 'strategic partnership' with the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. Richard Vacirca, 'Watershed and Fisheries Program Manager' for the Forest describes their strategic partnerships as being based on 'common interests.' They have similar working relationship with other organizations such as the Stillaguamish Tribe and the National Park Service. This kickoff event was part of a large-scale effort to restore and improve a section of the Forest that drains into the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, with special attention to the headwaters of the storied steelhead stream Deer Creek.

The event also included Greta Smith, the Darrington District Ranger, Dan Rankin, mayor of Darrington, Brenda Medina of the Wilderness Society, two F. S. interns, as well as 5 BAT trainees and several current BAT team members. The class was taught by T.U. culvert guru Luke Kelly. Both Mayor Rankin and Brenda Medina are also members of the Darrington Collaborative, a group dedicated to keeping the forest products industry in Darrington healthy in a *sustainable* way. For more information about the Collaborative, you can check out their website: [Darrington Collaborative - Home](#)

Continue Reading HERE---→The Darrington project grew out similar work done last year by T.U. and the F. S. in the Greenwater area north of Mt. Rainier. T.U. assessed a list of culverts provided by the F. S., and they used the data we provided to inform and validate some of their key management decisions. Specifically, decisions regarding which culverts, if replaced, would represent the best and most cost-effective opportunities for improving the health of the watershed *as a whole*! This wholistic approach is a hallmark of the Forest Service's philosophy and represents a unique and powerful opportunity to significantly improve the fisheries T.U. members love and work to protect.

Dean Campbell is heading up this project and will be organizing our BAT work parties in the near future.