

# You Can Help Protect the Waterways in Skagit County!!!

The Skagit Conservation District, in partnership with Skagit County and the cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon, would like to invite local volunteer groups, such as scouts, high school students, or other special interest groups to join us in protecting our local waterways by organizing a storm drain marking project for your neighborhood. Colorful markers are now available to be placed on storm drains in an effort to educate the public and reduce pollutants from entering our streams. Informational door hangars, with the same message, are also available for distribution as part of this project.

Storm Drain marking is a very good way to remind our neighbors that stormwater flows untreated to our creeks and river. Many people are under the impression that motor oil, pesticides, household chemicals and other materials going down a storm drain pass through a treatment plant where the water will be purified. What they don't realize is that all those harmful materials are flowing straight into adjacent ponds, ditches, rivers, lakes and bays. We're inadvertently polluting the waters we swim in, fish in and use every day.

These pollutants are carried from our yards, driveways, parking lots, roads, etc., by rainfall or snowmelt into our stormwater system and our local waterways. Some examples of stormwater runoff pollutants include:

- ⊗ *Antifreeze*
- ⊗ *Fertilizer*
- ⊗ *Motor oil*
- ⊗ *Pet waste*
- ⊗ *Detergent*
- ⊗ *Grass clippings*
- ⊗ *Paints*
- ⊗ *Sediment*
- ⊗ *Cleaners*
- ⊗ *Leaves*
- ⊗ *Pesticides*

This activity is an ideal service project for groups who are interested in helping the environment. Skagit Conservation District staff will provide supplies and training. If you are interested in scheduling a storm drain marking project, please contact Cindy Pierce, Skagit Conservation District, (360)428-4313 or [cindy@skagitcd.org](mailto:cindy@skagitcd.org).

