

Field Trip 3 (Three Forks Park, Snoqualmie) Information

Meeting place: Parking lot behind Winkenwerder Hall at 1:30 PM

We will be on the bus 45' to get to our field trip site. We will return by 5:30-6:00 PM

Site Information/Hazards: Three Forks Park is a King County Park and is located where the North and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River merge. We will be walking on a dirt trail through the woods to the river. The forested area is **MUDDY** and is often swarming with **MOSQUITOS**. There may be places where we need to climb over fallen trees. At the river, the ground is very rocky. Good **hiking boots** are highly recommended. We will be pushing our way through dense cottonwood stands so you may want **long sleeves** to protect from scratches. At some places we will walk alongside an eroded riverbank so caution is needed. It may be raining and cold so **waterproof clothes** are always good to bring.

Field trip goals:

Visualize succession from a flooding disturbance

- Your journal should clearly describe succession, including the transition of soil types and plant species and overall diversity from the river to the parking area. We will allow some time during the trip for writing your reflections

See the adaptations necessary for plants to survive in an area with frequent flooding

- Describe these in your journal
- Note that this is the area from which Prof. Doty's poplar and willow endophytes came

See many of the species we have learned about in their natural setting for the first time

- Your journal should include sketches and descriptions of the plants discussed in the fact sheets, as well as information on the wildlife discussed in fact sheets.



This is the same site in 2006 that you will be visiting. It had young poplar and willow in about equal numbers that were all about a few feet tall and of the same age. Note any differences when we see the site now in 2015. For orientation when we are there, you can use the bridge in the distance in the photo on the left.

Note the lack of soil in this cobble-dominated riparian setting unlike many other nutrient-rich river systems you may have learned about in other places.

Watershed Facts: Snoqualmie-Skykomish Watershed encompasses more than 680 square miles from the Cascade Crest to the confluence with the Skykomish River north of Duvall.

References

Three Forks Natural Area:

<http://www.ci.snoqualmie.wa.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/SnoqualmieParks/ThreeForksNaturalArea.aspx>

An excellent book on this area (and poplar in general) is by our Prof. Emeritus Reini Stettler: Cottonwood and the River of Time