Paying Attention: the Future of Restoration

Carol MacIlroy, Carol MacIlroy Consulting, Inc.

Chinook salmon populations are at less than 10 percent of their historic numbers and significant resources are directed across Puget Sound in an effort to save them. By both nature and profession many people working on salmon recovery are intimate observers of this decline. We track and study juvenile salmon, measure what they eat and when they eat it, notice the changes in our river¹s volume and timing, see shifts in the composition of rocks on marine beaches, watch silt levels on river bottoms, and count numbers of returning adults. So what do those of us who are paying attention notice, how do we feel about it and how does it influence our actions? This brief lunch talk will use two issues: the linkage of protection and restoration efforts and research on the power of respect to invite the audience to reflect on their own relationship to salmon recovery and their work.