



Issaquah Alps TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —

Dedicated to engaging the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps, for future and present generations.

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINER

October 2023

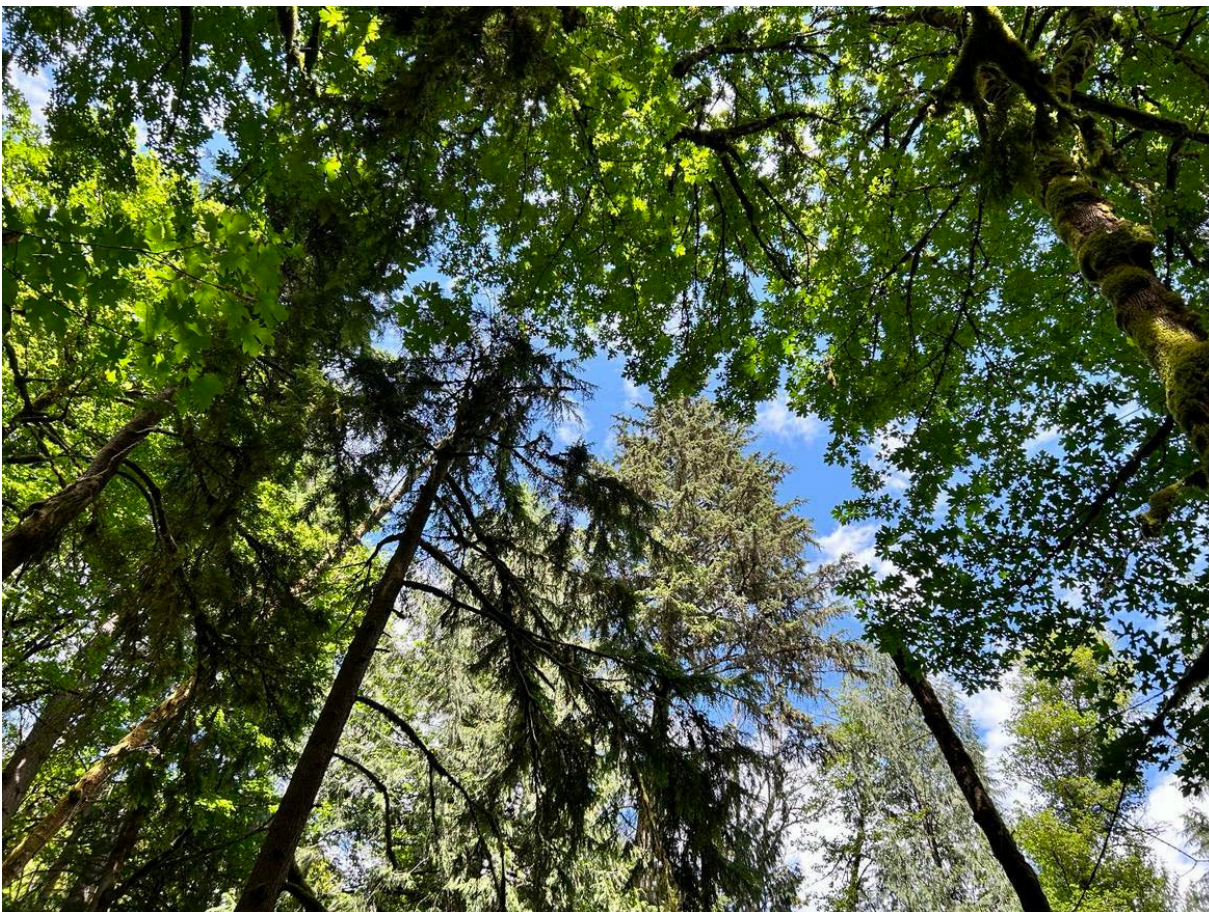
News – Events – Hikes



Forest Carbon in the Issaquah Alps

Kelly Jiang - October 1, 2023

When you set foot in the Issaquah Alps, you find yourself amongst the trees - but also in a sea of carbon. Douglas firs, cedars, and hemlocks reach their branches to the sky, taking in carbon dioxide and storing ("sequestering") the carbon in their wood. Old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest are some of the most carbon-dense in the world - they store more carbon per acre than even the Amazon rainforest!



Protecting older forests can be an effective strategy to preserve the carbon in these larger trees. One new strategy to put these forests into conservation status is to set them aside as "carbon reserves," where the forests are recognized for the value of carbon stored in the trees. Forests in the Issaquah Alps have been set aside for conservation through [DNR's new 10,000-acre carbon reserve](#), which includes land on Tiger Mountain, as well as a [project by City Forest Credits on Cougar Mountain](#). Companies seeking to offset their carbon emissions can purchase carbon credits from these and other forestry projects, which provides additional funding for ecosystem restoration and conservation projects throughout Washington.

You're Invited!

IATC Public Forum: Forest Carbon & Carbon Credits

📍 Blakely Hall, 2550 NE Park Dr, Issaquah Highlands
📅 October 25, 2023, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Featuring Expert Panelists:



Kathleen Farley Wolf
*Program Manager, Forestry
King County Department of Natural Resources
& Parks*



Dan Hintz
*Urban Forest Supervisor
City of Issaquah*



Mark McPherson
*Founder & Executive Director
City Forest Credits*

RSVP: tinyurl.com/iatc-forum-2023 • \$50 suggested donation
Proceeds benefit IATC's General Fund

IATC is hosting its first in-person forum since the pandemic on this very topic of forest carbon! Join us to learn more about how forests store carbon and how that carbon can fund further conservation projects. IATC's Vice President, Kelly Jiang, will facilitate a panel discussion featuring experts from King County Parks, the City of Issaquah, and City Forest Credits. Space is limited, so please [register here](#) to reserve your spot. Food will be provided, and the suggested donation is \$50. We hope to see you there!

Welcoming Issaquah's "Spooky" New Resident - Jakob Two Trees

Nicole Assumpcao - October 1, 2023

With the start of "spooky season" and the month of Halloween, it is not uncommon to find all kinds of frightful friends peering out of doorways or lurking on store shelves. While Issaquah's new 14-foot troll, Jakob Two Trees, sounds like he'd be a welcome addition to the roster of scary things that are haunting the halls and streets this month, it turns out he's more of a treat than a trick.



Jakob Two Trees peers from behind his trees. Photo by Nicole Assumpcao.

Jakob Two Trees is one of several trolls designed by artist Thomas Dambo, a Norwegian artist who has placed these whimsical recycled art installations all across the globe. Locally, Jakob has "relatives" in West Seattle, Ballard, and Portland, as well as on Vashon Island and Bainbridge Island. Each troll tells a tale of the cyclical nature of the natural world and honoring the land and its waterways.



The beginnings of Jakob and the many recycled components that went into creating him. Photo by Chris Craven.

The creation of these 14-foot (or more) wooden trolls is a work of art, a feat of engineering, and a testament to teamwork. Each troll was secretly installed over several days in late August, with volunteers and spectators asked to keep hush-hush about their location until the final unveiling. Each hand-crafted head is shipped in fully formed, but the bodies are all created out of repurposed wooden pallets by Thomas Dambo and his team - with the help of several intrepid volunteers. Volunteers aided in dismantling the pallets for use, while Thomas Dambo and his team were in charge of assembly.



Jakob's hand-crafted head and some of the pallets of wood being disassembled by volunteers. Photo by Anne Newcomb.

IATC Board President Anne Newcomb was able to join for one of the early days of work and provided us with these initial progress pictures. Chris Craven provided updated photos as well.



One of my personal favorite details - the fingernails of his hands. Photo by Chris Craven.

Jakob in particular is the first member of the troll family to don a ponytail fashioned from foraged sticks and held together with a band from the Snoqualmie tribe. This blending of cultural traditions is meant to symbolize the strengthening of connections between Coast Salish and Scandinavian traditions and beliefs. He sits nestled alongside the paved Rainier trail behind the Issaquah Community Center and welcomes respectful visitors to hear his tales.



A detailed look at Jakob's ponytail and the beautiful band that contains it, courtesy of the Snoqualmie tribe. Photo by Nicole Assumpcao.

For more information about Jakob and his forest friends, visit Dambo's [Northwest Troll website](#).



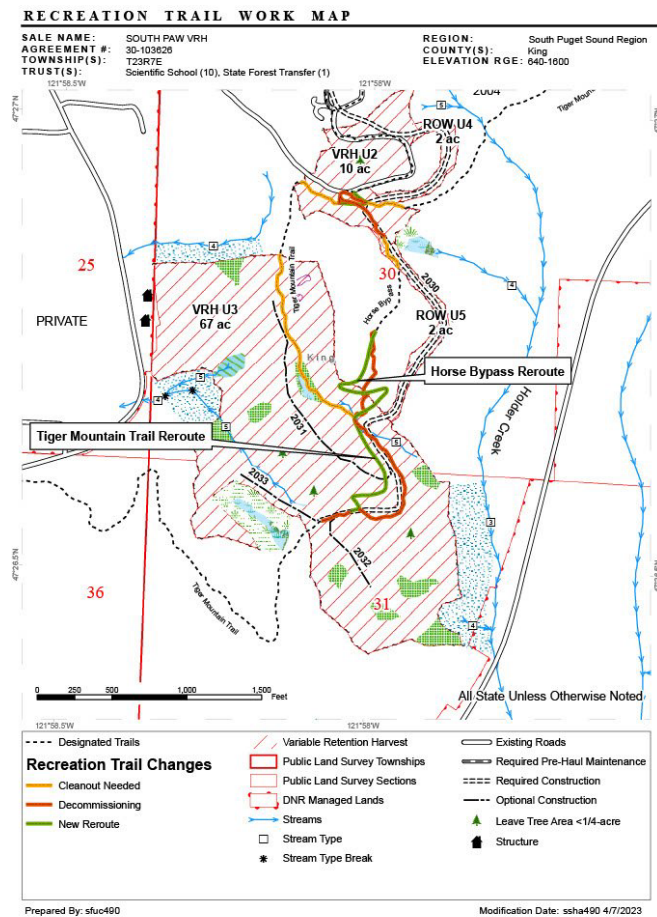
IATC Board President Anne Newcomb and Executive Director Nicole Assumpcao pose with Jakob Two Trees.

If you have a little one who'd like to don their costume to visit our friendly neighborhood troll, [click here](#) to join us for a "spooky" Teddy Bear hike this month!

South Paw Timber Sale Explained

Kelly Jiang - October 1, 2023

Hikers on Tiger Mountain may have been surprised to see a notice of yet another logging sale, this time on South Tiger. IATC works closely with our land manager partners at DNR to ensure that logging is conducted in the most environmentally benign way possible and that negative impacts to recreation are minimized.



Recreation Impacts

Ben Mayberry and Doug Kennedy from DNR joined IATC's Advocacy Committee meeting in September to discuss the upcoming South Paw logging sale. Ben Mayberry, Recreation Manager, shared the above map showing the changes to trail infrastructure following the logging. The Tiger Mountain Trail and Horse Bypass Trail will be rerouted (in green) to allow for a lower grade (i.e. less steep) route, which will reduce trail erosion over the long term. The existing trails highlighted in red will be decommissioned. Existing trails highlighted in yellow will require cleanout and re-grading following the logging. Ben emphasized that this timber sale provides the justification and mechanism for doing these trail reroutes. These will be long-term improvements to the trail system, even as the trees regrow.

Land areas with blue dots are riparian buffer zones around creeks or streams and will not be logged. Wetland areas and ponds, denoted with little green plant icons, also will not be logged. The remaining

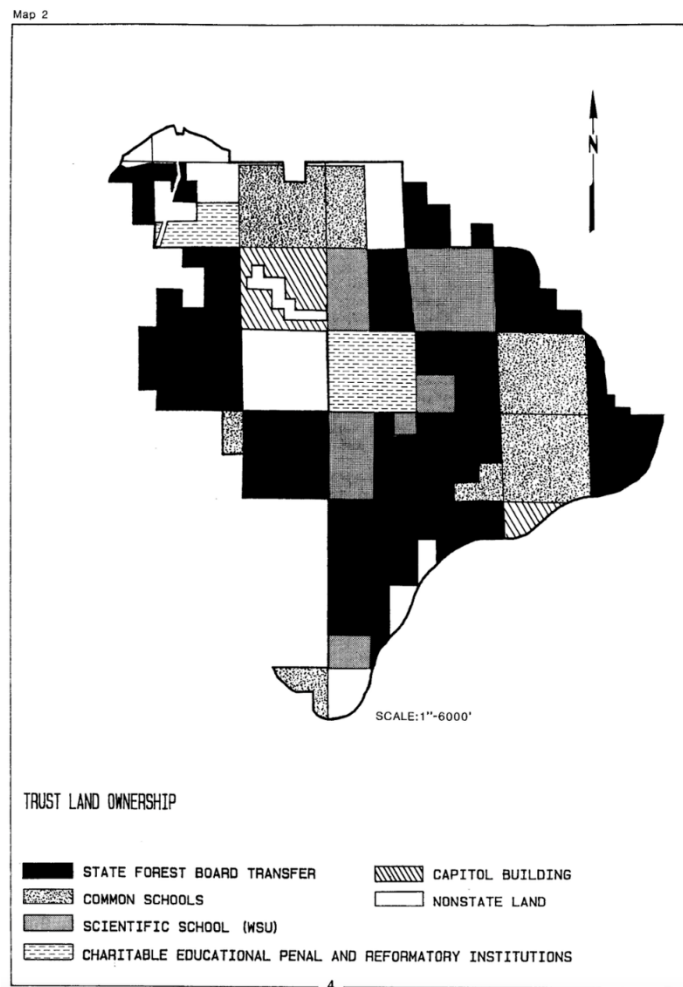
variable retention harvest, denoted by orange shading, will be logged.

DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) requires the retention of 10 trees per acre in the variable retention harvest. In this 67-acre harvest area, that means that 670 trees will be left as "leave trees." The areas for these 670 leave trees are highlighted in green. DNR aims to preserve the largest trees, nurse logs, and old growth stumps, wherever possible.

History: Tiger Mountain as a Working Forest

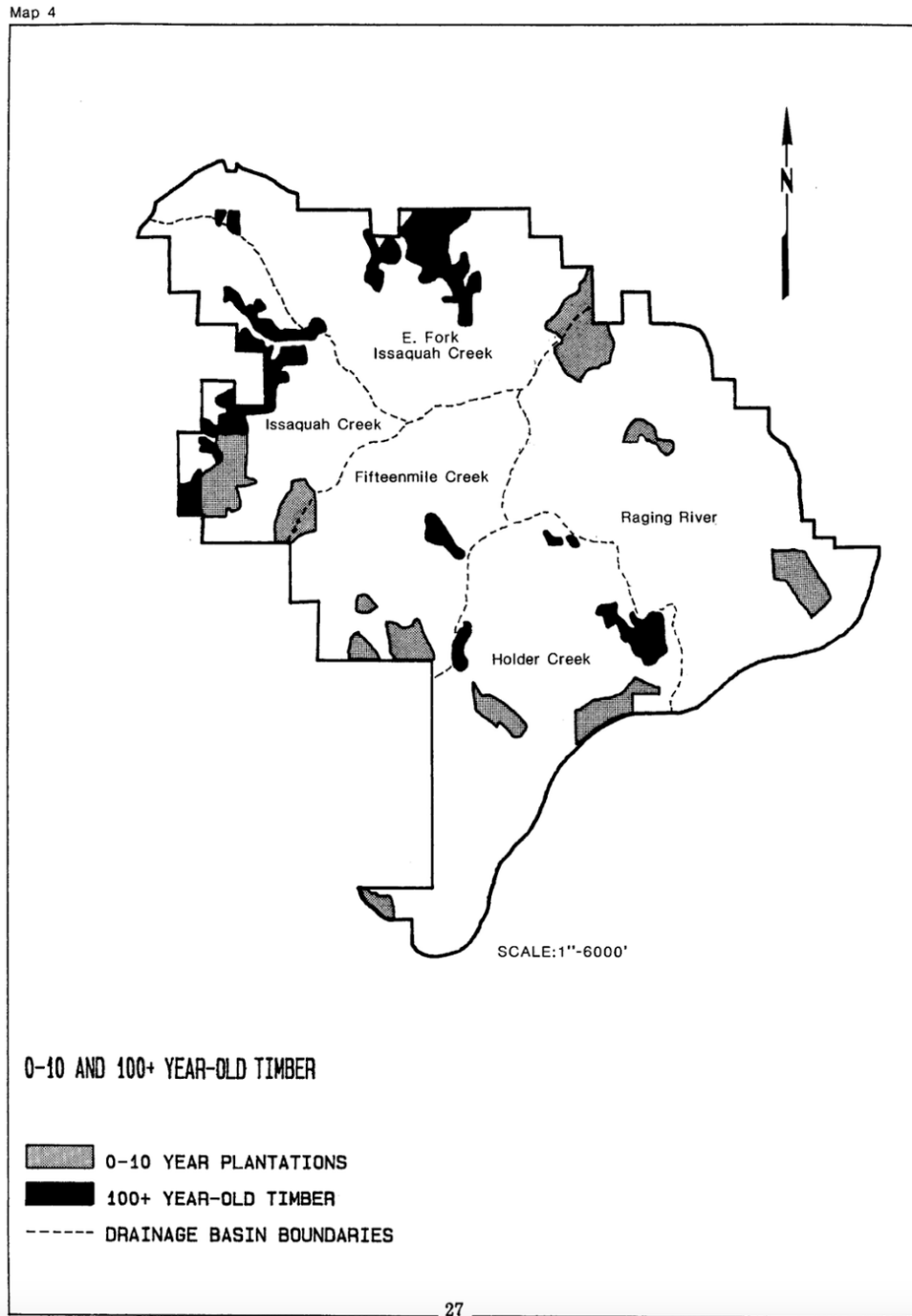
IATC has been intimately involved in land management on Tiger Mountain since the late 1970s, when the biggest threat to Tiger Mountain was suburban sprawl. IATC co-founder Harvey Manning was a key part of the working group that put together the original Tiger Mountain State Forest Management Plan in 1985. This plan aimed to balance the uses of the forest between recreationists (e.g. hikers, bikers, hang gliders, equestrians), habitat conservation, and working forest (i.e. logging).

Tiger Mountain has historically been a patchwork of state-owned and non-state-owned land, as shown in the following image, taken from the original 1985 Tiger Mountain State Forest Management Plan. Most of the privately owned land is now state-owned, save for the squiggly white parcel which contains the summits of West Tigers 1, 2, and 3. Among the state-owned land, there are a patchwork of different "state trust beneficiaries" that receive the proceeds of the revenue generated from logging on that land.



Source: Tiger Mountain State Forest Management Plan 1986

Even in the 1980s, there was a strong focus on conservation, particularly of older forests that remained on Tiger Mountain. The following image shows the stands identified as 100+ year old timber. The majority of these older forests are now part of the West Tiger NRCA (Natural Resource Conservation Area), one of the early wins for [DNR's Trust Land Transfer Program](#). These larger, older trees are now in conservation status and will never be logged.



Source: Tiger Mountain State Forest Management Plan 1986

IATC recognizes the essential role that logging plays in supporting state trust beneficiaries, and that wood and wood products are a key component of our modern society. Additionally, IATC supports WA DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and practices like riparian buffers, avoiding harvesting on

steep slopes prone to landslides, leave trees, etc. that minimize the negative environmental impacts of logging. Given that there is still demand for wood and wood products in our society for building homes, creating cardboard boxes, etc., some amount of logging will be needed to provide those products. Timber is a global commodity, and reducing the volume of sustainable timber harvested in Washington could have significant leakage effects, leading to more logging in other states, like Idaho, or countries, such as Indonesia, with less stringent environmental regulations.

IATC is also excited about the positive impacts this logging sale will have on recreation infrastructure and trails on Tiger Mountain. However, as conservationists, we are also strong advocates for increasing protection for older trees through programs such as Trust Land Transfer and DNR's Carbon Reserve.

IATC will continue to provide updates on the South Paw logging sale as more information becomes available.

Viewing Debbie's View with Debbie - a Hike Recap

Tom Anderson - September 27, 2023

Have you ever wondered who **Debbie's View** on Squak Mountain was named after? I know I did, and then, one day, I met her. She is Debbie Anshell, a long-time stalwart of the club dating back to the 1980s. In that first encounter, I asked her to lead a hike to her namesake viewpoint, and she agreed. The logistics all came together, and the hike occurred on Saturday, September 2, 2023.

Debbie was not content to just visit the intended destination but chose a route that circumnavigated Squak Mountain, passing by several other points of interest: Squak Mountain's main summit, the Bullitt fireplace, West Peak with the ruins of the old "Green House," and then on to Debbie's View for lunch.

Here are a few photos of the epic hike:



Debbie Anshell, posing by the sign pointing the way to Debbie's View. Photo by Tom Anderson.



*The intrepid hikers pause for a rest at the Bullitt Fireplace.
Photo by Tom Anderson.*



*When visible, Mount Rainier is always the main attraction from the viewpoint. It was a hazy day on our visit, so this photo depends on a little haze removal to better display the features of the mountain.
Photo by Tom Anderson.*

I asked Debbie how the moniker came about, and this is the story she told:

"I used to come up here back in the '90s and do a lot of work on Squak Mountain. We cleared the Chybinski Trail (named for Joe Chybinski) and then the Perimeter Loop. I came up here with Joe Toyne and Bill Longwell and worked on the trail the whole way, going down towards Phil's Creek Trail, and this was our lunch spot. There was already a small trail coming out to the viewpoint, and we would always come out for our lunch. One day, we came out here as usual, and Joe and Bill had put up a sign for "Debbie's View." I guess it stuck!"

Debbie also spent countless hours constructing the Tiger Mountain Trail. To show appreciation for her efforts, Bill Longwell gave her another namesake: "Anschell's Allée." It is a long, straight stretch of the TMT traversing the northeast ridge of West Tiger #3.

When you visit these namesake locations, take a moment to send happy thoughts to Debbie Anschell.



Events

IATC Public Forum: Forest Carbon & Carbon Credits

Wednesday, Oct 25 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

IATC is hosting its first in-person public forum since the pandemic! Join our panel of experts from the City of Issaquah, King County, and City Forest Credits to learn how trees in the Issaquah Alps store carbon and how these carbon credits help fund conservation and restoration projects.



Partner Event: Issaquah City Council Candidate Forum

Wednesday, Oct 4 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Candidates running for Issaquah City Council will join IATC's Kelly Jiang in a virtual conversation about issues facing our climate and local environment followed by a moderated Q & A.



54th Annual Salmon Days

Saturday & Sunday, Oct 7 & 8 from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Join the festivities at Salmon Days and stop by our booth to learn about what the Issaquah Alps Trails Club has been doing in and around the Alps.



Partner Event: MTSGT Tree Planting Celebration 2023

Saturday, Oct 14 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Join MTSGT, in partnership with Washington State Parks, to restore Lake Sammamish State Park by planting native trees and continuing to clear invasive species.



Restoration of High School Trail

Saturday, Oct 21 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join IATC and Green Issaquah as we continue our restoration of the High School Trail, a well-loved section of Tiger Mountain.



Partner Event: Restoration Event with FLSSP

Saturday, Oct 21 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

FLSSP is excited to work on a new habitat restoration project along the buffer of Tibbetts Creek, where they will continue to clear the site of invasive blackberry and begin planting native plants.



Partner Event: Issaquah Goes Apples! History Walk with FLSSP

Sunday, Oct 22 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Did you know there's an old apple orchard at Lake Sammamish State Park? Join FLSSP on this history walk to find the orchard and learn about the farming history of the park.



Partner Event: Green Issaquah Day

Saturday, Nov 4 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join the City of Issaquah and its partners in creating and restoring Squak Valley Park to a healthy forested habitat. Come meet and learn from the folks who steward the forest parks and open spaces near you!





Critical Habitats for Climate Change

Saturday, Oct 7 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

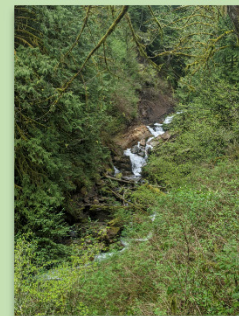
CELEBRATE SALMON DAYS by joining IATC and the City of Issaquah on a guided hike along Pickering Reach to explore how riparian areas and wetlands are critical habitats for plant and wildlife diversity in the face of a rapidly changing climate.



Geology of the Grand Canyon of Tiger Mountain

Saturday, Oct 14 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Get an action-packed tour of the geology of Tiger Mountain in the seldom visited Grand Canyon of Fifteenmile Creek led by UW geologist, Dr. Will Hoover! This is an interactive hike with hands-on observations, discussion and Q&A.



Teddy Bear Hike – Fall Peeping with Jakob Two Trees

Sunday, Oct 29 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Get festive with IATC as we pay a visit to our favorite troll, Jakob Two Trees. This family-friendly hike along the Rainier Trail is meant for the young at heart, so come in costume!



The Apparatus

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