Unit: Native Plant Communities

Activity: Plant Community Slide Show

Developed by: Heidi Bohan
Activity Length: 45 min. Prep time: 5 (set up projector) Review materials: 0-15 minutes

Guiding Questions: What are the differences between plant communities in Washington? How can you identify a plant community type?

Brief Description of Activity: Students will view a slide show about the plant communities of Washington State with a focus on plant communities that students will most likely encounter during EAS restoration projects (Westside Lowland Forest: Forest, Riparian and Emergent Wetland).

Materials: Plant community slide show, Slide show script, Plant Community list masters, Key indicator plants for plant communities

Teacher Provided: Drawing board, Student Binder (or photocopies from master Plant Community lists from Celebrating Wildflowers.

Activity

• **Hand out student binders** (or photocopies of Plant Community lists from Westside Lowland Forest, and San Juan/Olympic Rainshadow lists from Celebrating Wildflowers). Have students refer to the Plant Communities lists from Celebrating Wildflowers. Ask them to take notes especially noting the key indicator plants for different plant communities.
• **Show Plant Community Slide show**, reading from script.
• As time allows you can discuss individual plants with students, ask students plants they recognize etc.
• **After slide show summarize what we have learned.**
• **Make a list of Forest, Riparian and Emergent Wetland plants** on drawing board. Note what you think are key indicators for each of these plant communities.