

# **SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP**

***Students explore ecosystem sustainability and how human actions can affect it in negative and positive ways.***

**GRADE**

5th

**NEXT GENERATION**

ESS3-1

**TIME**

50-60 minutes

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Understand what factors contribute to sustainability in a healthy ecosystem.
- Understand how human actions can degrade an ecosystem and how responsible stewardship can improve it.
- Gain experience in asking critical questions.

## **PREPARATION**

1. Preview the two videos.
2. Cue the first video on your overhead projector's computer and have the address for the second close at hand.

## **WHAT TO DO**

1. Show the video *Salmon Story* (6.49 mins.) at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-6CuvZdy14](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-6CuvZdy14), then engage students in discussing what they heard and saw about salmon sustainability. Possible questions to pose:
  - What does "sustainability" mean?
  - What did you see in the video or what did you already know that can affect sustainability?
  - In the video, how do you see sustainability issues applying to how many salmon we have now versus years ago?
  - One of the narrators lists things he's never known, such as huge runs of salmon or the sky filled with birds. Can you add to his list - things that used to be common in the environment but no longer are?
  - What factors other than human action might affect sustainability?
  - What human actions can degrade an ecosystem and reduce the sustainability of species?
2. Show the video *Lost and (Puget) Sound* (27.37 mins.) at <https://vimeo.com/23283018>, then engage with students in discussing what they heard and saw about stormwater pollution and water-quality stewardship. Possible questions to pose:
  - What is a watershed?
  - What watershed are we in?
  - What larger watershed are we in?
  - What does "water quality" mean?
  - What does "impervious" mean?
  - What impervious surfaces can you name?
  - What three ways does the video emphasize that people pollute Puget Sound?
  - What additional ways can you name?
3. Engage students in defining "stewardship" and what actions they and their families might take to improve water quality in Puget Sound.

## **NOTE**

Consider presenting this lesson shortly before your salmon need to sustain themselves in the wild.