

Cedar River Watershed

By Nasir Sheikh



Have you ever wondered where your drinking water comes from, and if it is fresh, clean and safe to drink? The Cedar River Watershed supplies fresh drinking water to more than 1.3 million people in King County. That's a lot of people and a lot of water. The watershed has been the region's primary water supply for more than a century. The 91,000 acre watershed extends east to the crest of the Cascade Mountains and stretches west to the Landsburg Diversion Dam. This diverse watershed supports 83 fish and wildlife species of concern.

The watershed has been protected for more than a century and the city has spent about \$90 million over many years to improve habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. Why? Because that's where the water we drink comes from! If the water gets polluted, the people of the greater Seattle wouldn't have a clean drinking water supply.

The City of Seattle is lucky to have some of the nation's freshest and cleanest water, because of the surrounding mountain range that provides us snowcapped mountain runoff. The Cedar River Watershed has been protected and will be protected for years to come. The watershed visitor center welcomes the public offering views of the environment, history of the watershed, and information on the different kind of animals that live there.

Going to the watershed and experiencing something I had never seen before or think of seeing was a great experience. I got to

see fresh water, walk around the forest and was about 3000 feet above sea level. That's the highest I've ever been. It's an experience I'm never going to forget.

The area was filled with people who love nature. You might think it's a boring place to work or visit, but actually it looked like the people who worked there enjoyed what they were doing. Everybody had a smile, understood what was going on and was happy to see teenagers there, learning something new.

For more information on the Cedar River Watershed and the city of Seattle Public Utilities see the link below.

http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Water_System/Water_Sources_& Treatment/Cedar_River_Watershed/SPU03_001888.asp

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