SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY BOARD (SRSRB)
SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD (SRFB)

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB) was developed to assist in the goals for salmon recovery and conservation efforts. The SRSRB is the regional coordinator for grant funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). For several years now, ACCD has acquired SRFB grants to help fund projects that protect and/or restore salmon habitat. Restoration projects assist in the recovery of habitat conditions that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Typical projects include:

- **In-Stream Passage** – includes activities that provide or improve fish migration upstream and downstream of road crossings, dams and other in-stream barriers. Passage projects may include replacing barrier culverts with fish passable culverts or bridges, removing barriers (dams, logjams) or constructing fishways.
- **In-Stream Habitat** – includes activities that enhance freshwater fish habitat below the ordinary high water mark, such as adding boulders, gravel or woody materials; relocating a channelized stream to a more natural channel configuration; removing and controlling nonnative in-stream plants.
- **Riparian Habitat** – includes activities that will improve the riparian habitat such as planting native vegetation, managing invasive species; or controlling livestock, vehicle and foot traffic within protected areas.
- **Upland Habitat** – includes activities that improve habitat important to fish but occur upslope of the riparian area. Projects may include upland erosion control, upland plant establishment and management.

ACCD is always looking for good, quality projects to submit to SRFB. We are already starting to work on applications for the 2012 funding cycle, so if you have any ideas please let us know. Below are some examples of projects that have been funded by SRFB. For further information on these two agencies, please go to www.snakeriverboard.org and www.rco.wa.gov.

aerial view of project site

two year old willows during 2011 flooding conditions

three months after planting

Some things we have been doing .....

07-1896

George Creek Revegetation Project completed

Luhn's Bridge Project completed

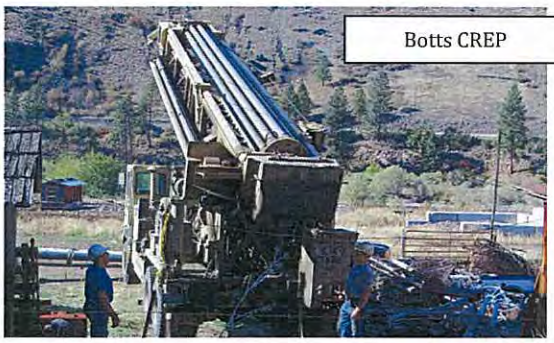
CREP Cost-Share Opportunities

Water Development:
50% cost-share increased from $3,000 to $3,600 of up to $7,200 total cost.
Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

Pipeline:
50% cost-share increased from $2,000 to $2,400 of up to $4,800 total cost.
Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

Livestock Watering Facilities:
50% cost-share increased from $2,000 to $2,400 of up to $4,800 total cost.
Additional cost-share from other sources is available to complete project.

Contact Casey Scott at the
ACCD District Office
for information and assistance.
509-758-8012 or
caseyaccd@cableone.net



Asotin Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed Study – September 2011

Throughout the Columbia Basin millions of dollars are spent every year on stream restoration projects in an effort to increase wild salmon and steelhead populations. The State of Washington in cooperation with the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board has chosen Asotin Creek as a location to study whether wild steelhead numbers will increase after a large amount of stream restoration. These types of studies are called Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) and Asotin Creek was chosen as a location for an IMW because it has a history of local landowner support for conservation and restoration practices and there is a large amount of historic information on the steelhead population.

The goal of the Asotin Creek IMW is to restore trees and shrubs along the stream banks and add wood to the stream to create more cover and pools for juvenile steelhead. With more fish cover and pools we expect more young fish to survive the winter and eventually migrate to the ocean. Private landowners, the Koch's and Thornton's, have been very generous in letting contractors access their land to conduct fish and habitat surveys on Charley Creek and we also work on Fish and Wildlife and Forest Service land on the North Fork and South Forks of Asotin Creek.

We began working in Asotin Creek in 2008 and have been capturing young steelhead and measuring habitat every summer and fall in Charley Creek, North Fork Asotin Creek, and South Fork Asotin Creek. We tag young steelhead with PIT tags (PICTURE) that can be detected by antennas that we have placed in the stream. When the fish swim over the antenna a code unique to that fish is recorded much like a bar code scanner at the grocery store. With this technology we can track fish that leave Asotin Creek and return as adults, measure their growth when we recapture them, and learn how they move about in the watershed. We also count all the pools and fish cover in the stream before and after stream restoration. This information will help us determine if the restoration was successful.

Next year (2012) we are going to start stream restoration in Asotin Creek. We will create dozens of large woody debris structures using logs and wooden posts driven into the stream bottom (PICTURE). We tested this method this summer and it appears to be an inexpensive and practical method for creating more pools and fish cover in Asotin Creek. We will restore 2.5 miles in each of Charley, North Fork, and South Forks Creeks from 2012-2014. We will then continue to monitor the streams for at least six more years to see if the restoration worked at increasing the number of wild steelhead. This project is essentially a large experiment that will teach us a lot about how stream restoration affects steelhead populations and lessons learned from the Asotin Creek IMW will be used throughout Washington to help other stream restoration efforts.

For more information, please contact:

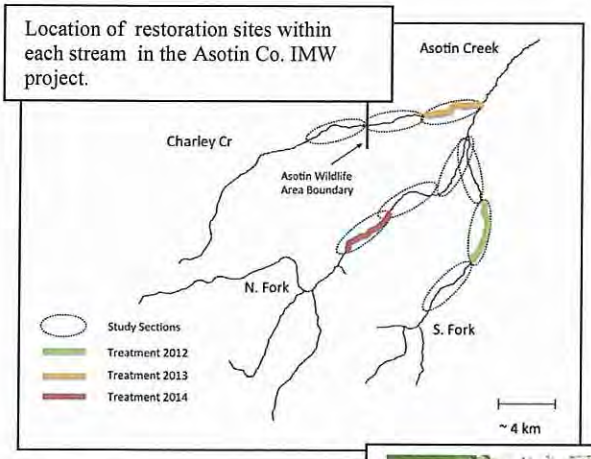
Stephen Bennett
Asotin Creek Intensively Monitored
Watershed Coordinator
Tel. 435.757.5668
Bennett.ecological@gmail.com
www.Ecologicalresearch.org

or

Steve Martin, Director
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Tel. 509.382.4115
Steve@snakeriverboard.org
http://www.snakeriverboard.org/

A 0.5" long passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag – contains a unique 13 digit code – implanted into steelhead that are 3" or larger.

Location of restoration sites within each stream in the Asotin Co. IMW project.



An antenna placed in Charley Crk that can detect fish with PIT tags that swim over it.

Driving wooden posts into the stream bottom with a hydraulic driver. These structures will catch wood floating downstream and create cover for the fish and deep pools to help them survive harsh winter conditions.

Logs will be added to some of the post structures to speed up the creation of fish cover and pools. Several hundred of these structures will be built by hand.

A young steelhead from Asotin Crk that is about to have a PIT tag implanted in its abdomen.

Port Angeles, WA
(Clallam Co.)
Peninsula Daily News
(Cir. D. 15,808)
(Cir. S. 17,500)

SEP 25 2011

Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

PA to conduct town hall meet on budget

2219

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

The public will be invited to comment on Port Angeles' 2012 budget at an informal forum during a special meeting Tuesday.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in City Council chambers in City Hall, 321 E. Fifth St.

City Manager Kent Myers will moderate the town hall meeting, in which city officials hope to hear from residents about which city programs and services are important and which ones should have lower priorities.

It will start with brief presentations from Myers and city Finance Director Yvonne Ziomkowski.

Beginning in November, the City Council will hold formal public hearings before it approves the final 2012 budget.

The three Clallam County commissioners will conduct a public hearing on quarterly debatable budget emergencies Tuesday.

The hearing begins at 10:30 a.m. in the commissioners' boardroom (160) at the Clallam County Courthouse, 223 E. Fourth St., Port Angeles.

In the 10 a.m. business meeting, commissioners will consider:

■ A proclamation recognizing October as domestic violence awareness and prevention month.

■ A letter of support for Cascade Land Conservancy participation in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sustainable communities regional planning grant.

■ A waiver of bid and quote requirement for a sole source provider contract with the Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center.

■ An agreement with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for access to online food worker training and certification.

■ A contract with Concerned Citizens for employment support to people with developmental disabilities.

■ Agreements with the state Recreation and Conservation Office to support the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity and with the state Department of Natural Resources for use of offender work crews.

■ An invitation for bids due Oct. 18 for the construction of a new tie road in west Sequim.

■ Resolutions creating a new category on the Animal Issues Advisory Committee and appointing a representative, appointing a member to the Permit Advisory Board, adopting supplemental appropriations and adopting a budget reduction and revision.

On Monday, commissioners will discuss the action items as well as proposed changes to the county code for potentially dangerous or dangerous dogs.

The work session will start at 9 a.m. in the same boardroom.

Regional forum

The city of Port Angeles will host a regional forum of the Washington Tourism Alliance on Monday.

The meeting will be from

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Eye on Clallam

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in a meeting room at the Vern Burton Community Center, 308 E. Fourth St.

The session will offer information on the new statewide tourism effort and solicit feedback on working to improve the approach to marketing the state for tourism.

Port of Port Angeles

Port of Port Angeles commissioners will hear a report on a Wild Olympics economic impact study when they meet Monday.

Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. at 338 W. First St.

Commissioners also will consider a renewal of the executive director's contract.

Also on the agenda are capital project priorities for 2012, a claims settlement and an insurance settlement.

Sequim City Council

The Sequim City Council will discuss health and human services funding when it meets Monday.

The matter will be taken up during the council's 6 p.m. meeting in its chambers at the Sequim Transit Center, 190 W. Cedar St.

The council also will conduct public hearings on commercial wall sign standards, habitat assessment requirements and proposed firearms regulations.

The council will honor Russ Myers with a Sequim Police Department Citizen Service Award.

During a 5 p.m. Monday work session at the same location, the council is scheduled to review and discuss a park survey and follow up on a citizens survey.

Port Angeles schools

The Port Angeles School Board will consider approval of a bargaining agreement with the Port Angeles Educational Office Professionals when it meets Monday.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. at Franklin Elementary School, 2505 S. Washington St.

The draft contract for 2011-2014 has been ratified by the Port Angeles Educational Office Professionals and awaits School Board action.

The board considers final approval of several policies that concern such areas as sale of real estate, excused and unexcused absences, maintaining professional boundaries between employees and students, post-issuance compliance and procedure for tax-advantaged bonds.

Also on the agenda are consideration of approval of Gail Frick as interim director of business and finance and of Jill Oakes as interim director of human resources.

The board will consider a contract with the William Shore Memorial Pool and approval of an additional member to the elementary reorganization task force.

Public utility district

The Clallam County Public Utility District commissioners meeting Monday has been canceled.

The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 3, at 1:30 p.m.

Port Angeles, WA
(Clallam Co.)

Peninsula Daily News
(Cir. D. 15,808)
(Cir. S. 17,500)

AUG 11 2011

Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

Wetlands purchase protects salmon habitat in Hood Canal

2219

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

HOOD CANAL — A purchase of 160 acres of wetlands at the critical confluence of the north and south forks of the Skokomish River in Mason County will protect habitat for salmon, including "threatened" chinook, summer chum and steelhead, experts said.

Funding came from the state through the Salmon Recovery Fund, administered by the state Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program, administered through the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

"Conserving these properties will make a positive impact on the region's important salmon population and give our partners flexibility in their broader restoration goals in the Hood Canal basin," said Sam Gibboney of the Cascade Land Conservancy in a statement.

Grants were given to a partnership between CLC, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. Green Diamond Resource Co. sold 131 forested acres on the south side of the Skokomish River for $262,000.

The other 29 acres were purchased from landowner Robert Rasmussen for $110,000.

Where the North Fork of the Skokomish comes into the South Fork has been considered a key to the restoration of the Skokomish River. Some biologists said efforts to control flooding in the area have constrained the river and damaged the wetland habitat.

Acquisition of the 160 acres will allow for creation of off-channel streams, which serve as resting and rearing habitat within the floodplain of the Skokomish River, Hood Canal's largest river system.

Experts hope restoring the river's natural functions will help heal the low-oxygen problems in southern Hood Canal.

Vancouver, WA
(Clark Co.)
Columbian
(Cir. D. 49,607)
(Cir. S. 58,882)

SEP 21 2011

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Japanese gate marks park's once-and-future pond

I would like to know the history of the Japanese "pagoda" (for the lack of a better term) that sits in Pleasant Valley Park. It has been there for the entire 17 years that I have lived in the area, and there used to be a pond underneath with swans in it. Today, the pond is dry and the swans are long gone, but the structure remains. None of our neighbors really knows how this structure came to be.

—Dale Hillman, Pleasant Valley

Dale, here's the scoop on what's actually a Japanese-style gate, called a torii. Most folks won't have noticed it because it's tucked far down in the brushy recesses of 40-acre Pleasant Valley Park, not the most accessible place to begin with.

The following information comes courtesy of Clark County Parks Superintendent Bill Bjerke and spokeswoman Jilayne Jordan.

Clark County bought the majority of the land that is now Pleasant Valley Community Park in 1989, and that parcel came with a pond and Japanese garden a previous owner had built.

The wooden torii was a feature in that garden, "with a brass bell hanging from it, a nice covered shelter, beautiful landscaping and an impressive cistern irrigation system. In addition to the swans the writer mentioned, it's interesting to note that the pond also used to serve as a nursery for lots of juvenile fish.

"Sadly, the brass bell was stolen ... not long after the property became a public park, but the worst was yet to come. In 1996, the flood put this entire area of the park under 6 feet of water because of its proximity to Salmon Creek. When the water receded, the pond had been completely filled in with silt, the beautiful landscaping was destroyed and the covered shelter had floated away." Only the torii survived.

The county doesn't plan to remove the torii "unless it deteriorates to the point where it becomes a danger or nuisance."

But there are plans afoot to change the landscape again. "In August, the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group began work on a fish habitat enhancement and stream restoration project where the pond used to be.

As part of this project, they will rebuild the pond with the goal of once again (providing) rearing habitat for young fish. They will also add a series of plank weirs to the tributary to improve fish passage and create spawning areas. This project is being paid for by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

"In November, Clark County Environmental Services will invite volunteers to help plant hundreds of trees and shrubs in this same area to help improve the riparian habitat along Salmon Creek and its tributary."

— Scott Hewitt

Got a question about your neighborhood? We'll get it answered. Send "What's Up With That?" questions to neighbors@columbian.com.

SCOTT HEWITT/The Columbian

This torii, a Japanese-style gateway that marks the passage from an ordinary space to a special spot, is all that's left of somebody's garden in what has since become Pleasant Valley Park. A pond that once stood nearby may soon be restored.

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"We're not doing anything that Mother Nature wouldn't have done. We're just doing a sped-up version."

2219

Glenn Saastad, project coordinator, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

River restoration moves ahead

Washougal project anchors logs to create fish habitat

The Columbian

Photos by GREG WAHL-STEPHENS for The Columbian

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group has anchored nearly 160 logs along the Upper Washougal River this year in an effort to restore natural fish habitat. Inmate crews from Larch Corrections Center work above Dougan Creek Campground earlier this week.

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By ERIC FLORIP
Columbian staff writer

Just below the popular swimming spot known as Naked Falls, the Upper Washougal River navigates an unusual landscape. About a dozen logs, bark mostly stripped, lie fastened to the river's bare rocky bed in a seemingly random arrangement.

Glenn Saastad doesn't see it that way.

Standing in the middle of the low-running river this week, Saastad looked into the future. He described a mix of natural gravel — perfect for salmon spawning grounds — among sediment gathered on each side. He saw slow-moving pools of water formed behind the logs. He saw riparian plants dotting the river's path.

All of that could take five years or more to materialize. But it's part of a carefully planned, fish-friendly vision that the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group has worked from to transform the Upper Washougal since 2004. The third stage of the sweeping project — already starting to see results — is set to finish by this fall.

Glenn Saastad, a project coordinator with the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, says the third phase of the group's Upper Washougal River restoration should wind down by fall.

"We're not doing anything that Mother Nature wouldn't have done," said Saastad, the project coordinator. "We're just doing a sped-up version."

Leading the effort is Tony Meyer, executive director of the group for the past 10 years. The $800,000 project has covered about five miles of the river so far, he said, mostly where impacts to roads and residents is minimal. Many other parts of the Upper Washougal could use some help as well, he said.

"The area we're addressing is actually quite small," Meyer said.

River 'scoured out'

Logs are the main tool the project uses to restore complex natural habitat to the Washougal River. They're also the main reason it was wiped out in the first place.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the logging industry functioned under a very different set of rules than it does today. Back then, loggers used "log drives" to move timber by building dams, then sending a torrent of water and felled trees down the river. The process also carved away many of the natural features fish depend on, Saastad said.

"All life is basically scoured out," he said.

By putting fixed logs back in the river, the fish enhancement group is creating a system of anchors that collect gravel for spawning beds and add complexity to the flow of the river. In the high-flowing winter and spring months, the logs are submerged in water while that process takes place. Saastad hopes they're eventually buried by natural ground cover in a new landscape.

Just as important are the changes in flow that result from the added terrain, Saastad said. Forming pools behind logs gives fish a

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River:

From Page C1

respite from water current as they work their way upstream to spawn, he said.

"They need cover," Saastad said. "They need those pools and those holes so they can make that trip. It's a grueling trip."

The goal of restoration remains the same, but the methods used in the project have evolved over the years. Crews have used everything from chains and bolts to a binary glue to attach logs to the river bed.

Not everything has worked. Smaller logs fastened early on have since begun to rot, Meyer said. The group even tried setting down boulders at first, he said. Turns out, they didn't last very long.

"The river just pushed the boulders out," Meyer said. "Just pushed them on down the river."

Most of the logs used now measure more than 60 feet long, and at least a few feet in diameter. They're fastened strongly enough to withstand a 300-year flood event, Saastad said. Actually attaching them are inmate crews from the Larch Corrections Center.

Bolting logs to a river bed isn't a typical strategy for habitat restoration. Meyer said it started with his fish enhancement group before being tweaked in recent years.

"It's a pretty new, innovative approach," said Dave Howe, a regional habitat program manager with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The condition of the Upper Washougal leaves no other choice, Howe said. With the river bed scraped completely down to bare rock, bolting and attaching log jams is the only way to get the features to hold, he said.

The unique project navigated several layers of review from various jurisdictions before taking off. It wasn't always an easy sell, Meyer said.

The group now works closely with those agencies, and has found favor as it works a wide variety of projects stretching from the Bonneville Dam to the Washington Coast.

"The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group is really one of the key restoration entities here in Southwest Washington," Howe said.

Seeing results

In just a few short years, the project has produced noticeable changes to the Upper Washougal River, but not always what Meyer and Saastad had envisioned.

Some spots haven't replenished gravel cover as fast as anticipated. Other spots, such as one log jam near Dougan Creek Campground, have piled up much more than expected at a narrower portion of the river. Crews are now working about 20 miles upstream from Washougal.

"You have to kind of picture it in your head," Saastad said of the planning process. "You don't always get the result you expect."

The work is always at the mercy of the weather. Crews operate in a short time window that only lasts from about July until October, Saastad said. By then, the river level comes back up and makes work impossible.

GREG WAHL-STEPHENS for The Columbian

Logs have been fastened to the Upper Washougal River in recent years using a variety of methods, including bolts and chains and a binary glue.

The Fish Enhancement Group has put close to 160 logs into the Upper Washougal this year. Next year likely won't be as ambitious, Saastad said, but the group hopes to get a couple more years' work out of its grant from the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board, even as Phase 3 winds down this fall. For a group that relies heavily on state and federal grants, making dollars last is key, Meyer said.

The Upper Washougal work has produced results so far — Saastad and Meyer said they've already seen increased salmon activity that wasn't there several years ago.

The project is also unquestionably aggressive, reshaping the river in a short time period. But Saastad shrugs at the notion that it's too heavy-handed.

"I don't think it's heavy-handed enough," Saastad said. "The salmon are basically going to die off unless we do something."

Eric Florip: *360-735-4541 or eric.florip@columbian.com.*

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Aberdeen, WA
(Grays Harbor Co.)
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(Cir. S. 13,000)

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2219

Make yourself heard on Willapa Wildlife refuge issues

BY CONGRESSWOMAN JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Congresswoman

The Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is a beautiful place, enjoyed for years by Pacific County residents and visitors alike. Yet just a few months ago, a plan to permanently alter the refuge was nearly set in motion — and most folks within Pacific County knew nothing about it.

I am pleased to report that since that time, we have been able to insert some transparency into the process. Still, the fate of the Willapa refuge hangs in the balance, and I am troubled over the lack of responsiveness from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the varied and multiple concerns from the public.

Over the course of the last few months there has been great debate about the future of the refuge, particularly regarding the management alternatives that the USFWS has put forth. Two of the plans considered by the USFWS, alternatives 2 and 3, would drastically change the character of the refuge by breaching the dikes and permanently altering hundreds of acres of wildlife refuge.

When I organized a public session in Ilwaco in March, the hundreds of local residents who showed up made it exceedingly clear that the people of Pacific County care deeply about the refuge and the values it represents.

It is telling that many Pacific County residents were unaware that new management alternatives were even being considered until news articles ran at the beginning of the year. The public sense that the process wasn't being completed in an open and transparent manner was heightened when we learned that the agency had secured funding and applied for permits for dike removal through the Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, prior to seeking public input.

Residents rightly questioned why the agency would take action to carry out the irreversible steps of alternatives 2 and 3 before they sought public comment. Given the passionate opinions expressed from Pacific County residents, and given the history of the refuge, it is concerning that the actions of the USFWS signaled that this government agency was ready to move ahead with its preferred alternative — regardless of the will of the people.

The refuge was formed in 1937 for the express purpose of providing habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and migratory bird populations. Our national refuges are funded in part through Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," and in fact, 52.4 percent of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge was purchased with these funds. Thanks in large part to a responsible community of sportsmen, we have the incredible gem that our refuge is today.

One challenge with USFWS's preferred alternative is that the removal of the Lewis, Porter Point and Riekkola dikes would destroy fresh water wetlands and foraging habitat that is used by tens of thousands of migratory waterfowl, including threatened dusky Canada geese. I have heard many concerns that the USFWS's actions show total disregard for the refuge's original purpose and those who paid to preserve it.

In addition to the proposed irreversible environmental impacts, a critical challenge in this time when budgets are stretched to the last penny is the cost of alternatives 2 and 3. Demolition costs for levee removals, the price of new office buildings, a visitor center, land acquisition, and other costs within the proposed plan pose a considerable extra burden on taxpayers.

The good news is that the residents were willing to make their voices heard once they were informed of the agency's intentions. To date, the people have won some very important victories. I joined state Sen. Brian Hatfield and state Reps. Brian Blake and Dean Takko in asking the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board to refrain from funding the dike removal. I was thrilled the board agreed with our request. In addition, just recently I was informed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has cancelled the permit application for the dike removal under the Bear River Estuary Restoration Plan.

Despite these small victories, the work is far from done. Please continue to let your voices be heard. Please email, phone and write to my office and the USFWS and share your comments and concerns. This is an issue of great importance to our region.

The question of refuge management is not one we can afford to get wrong, nor should permanent changes be made without strong support from the community.

Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler represents Washington's Third Congressional District.

Aberdeen, WA
(Grays Harbor Co.)
Daily World
(Cir. Tu-Sat. 12,662)
(Cir. Sun. 12,892)

AUG 16 2011

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WILLAPA BAY

Modified Willapa refuge plan available

2219

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS
The Daily World

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made several modifications to its preferred management plan for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in response to concerns raised by hunters, property owns and Pacific County officials.

The final Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which is expected to be adopted next month, was released Friday and is intended to guide management of the refuge for the next 15 years. With a process that started in 2008, the plan recently had been criticized as calling for too much additional land acquisition in Pacific County along with concern from hunters about the removal of several dikes in the southern portion of the refuge.

The chosen alternative — No. 2 out of three proposals — "is based on a land management approach that will protect and enhance natural resources, habitats, and landscapes, while allowing for recreational public uses," said a Fish and Wildlife statement about the decision. "Alternative 2 addresses a variety of resource needs, while improving and protecting habitat and wildlife, restoring estuarine habitat, managing forest habitat, managing predators to protect western snowy plover, expanding the Refuge's acquisition boundary, and providing high quality wildlife-dependent public uses," according to Fish & Wildlife.

Key elements of the preferred alternative include:

• Restore the intensively managed pastures and impoundments to historic estuarine conditions, increasing open water, intertidal flats, and salt marsh habitat by 621 acres. The initial plan had called for 749 acres and an executive summary said the alternative was modified in reaction to a number of comments.

• On the Leadbetter Point Unit, control bird and mammal predators as necessary to help meet western snowy plover recovery goals.

• On the Riekkola Unit, 93 acres of short-grass fields would be managed as foraging habitat for Canada geese, elk, and other wildlife because of comments received about the initial document's plan for complete tidal restoration. Grassland restoration on 33 acres would include establishing the early-blue violet host plant which would serve the reintroduction of the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly.

• Expand the approved refuge boundary by 6,809 acres in the Nemah, Naselle, South Bay, and East Hills areas, and divest the Shoalwater and Wheaton Units (940 acres) from the refuge.

• Develop an interpretive trail and observation deck along the South Bay that ties into a proposed Tarlatt Unit visitor/administrative facility.

• The waterfowl hunting area would expand to include 5,570 acres, after estuarine restoration is completed. An additional 100 acres and three blinds would be available for goose hunting, based on comments submitted by user groups and hunters, and two blinds would be added for waterfowl hunting. Walk-in hunters could access the blinds on a first-come, first-serve basis.

• A special permit elk hunt on the Leadbetter Point Unit, and elk and deer hunting in the South Bay and East Hills Units during state seasons, also are proposed.

• Develop a year-round cartop boat launch, parking area, and 0.6-mile Porter Point trail to access the South Bay.

Other areas where the plan was modified include the elimination of a proposal to raise a county road that was determined to be a designated tsunami evacuation route for Pacific County, and the elimination of refuge modifications that would have a direct impact on freshwater wetlands on private property, according to Fish and Wildlife. Some concerns also were raised about access to the area, and the proposal was modified to allow year-round access to the new trail at Porter Point and to open up public use of the hunting blinds to any refuge visitor when hunting season is over.

Elements of the plan were to be implemented earlier this summer but were halted under opposition from state lawmakers and Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Camas, who succeeded in extending the public comment period on the project. Opponents also were able to stop the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board from beginning a $473,000 contract to remove some of the dikes.

Herrera Beutler's staff currently is reviewing the final plan before commenting.

The next step in the process is for the Fish and Wildlife regional director to select an alternative, a decision that can be made no sooner than 30 days after the release date on Friday. Once a "record of decision" is made, the service will begin the proposed projects as funding becomes available.

To read the final plan online: http://www.fws.gov/willapa/CCP/CCP%20Final.html

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(Cir. Sun. 12,892)

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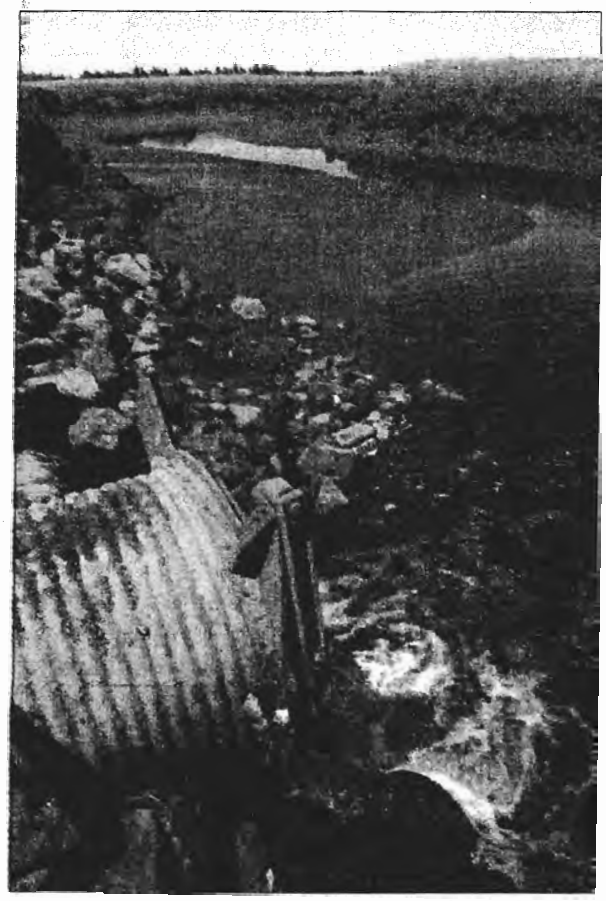
PACIFIC COUNTY

2017

Willapa refuge battle continues



MACLEOD PAPPIDAS | THE DAILY WORLD

Fresh water pours from a culvert at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge at low tide.

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS
The Daily World

ILWACO — Charlie Stenvall straddles a dike in the midst of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and imagines what the landscape would look like returned to its natural state.

From where a new observation tower would offer views across Williapa Bay and the gravel road would be replaced by a walking trail, Stenvall envisions the tides and the public returning to an area now used mostly for cattle grazing and bird hunting.

"If you haven't seen the bay in the fall when the shorebirds are in, this is where they concentrate. You get hundreds of thousands and it's a sight to behold," Stenvall said, pointing out where the dike would be removed to allow the salt water estuary to return over several years.

The streams would no longer need fish ladders that are in danger of failing and tide gates would no longer be needed, Stenvall says.

"This would all go back to salt marsh, and we would have salt marsh all around. And at high tide, it would be kind of a cool spot. There would be a complete restoration."

As the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's project manger for changes to the refuge's management plan, Stenvall is straddling much more than the dike as he conducts a short tour of one of the more contentious changes proposed by his agency, which oversees the refuge.

It's part of a $4.2 million Comprehensive Conservation Plan to update and improve the refuge, with a proposed new visitor center in Ilwaco and two options that call for up to 6,800 acres of expansion and removal of some of the diked areas of the tideflats. Much of the refuge's layout dates back to when it was established in 1937, and the dikes were completed in the late 1940s and early '50s.

The new plan has met with stiff resistance, with the Pacific County commissioners opposing two of the options because they call for expansion

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• FROM PAGE A1

Refuge

into private forest land and would remove dikes in some of the more popular hunting areas of the refuge. The opposition has had its impact by already delaying some of the process, but Stenvall argues the dikes still need to be removed.

The dike under Stenvall's feet divides what would be known as the Bear River Estuary at Porter Point, and it would already be set for removal had a key state agency not pulled back funding after questions arose about whether the project had broad public support and whether it would harm rather than help wildlife.

Stenvall can only speculate why the dikes were built in the first place as part of a Fish & Wildlife project from a bygone era.

"The rationale is pretty scant. Maybe better nesting habitat and some additional food resources for waterfowl," he shrugs. "That was the era back in that time. It was all develop and work projects, and quite frankly nobody would do that any more. We know enough about estuaries. Nobody talks about diking estuaries any more."

MACLEOD PAPPIDAS | THE DAILY WORLD

Charles Stenvall of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service stands near a fish ladder on the dike at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

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FUNDING HALTED

The Salmon Recovery Board had been set to authorize $402,401 to remove the dikes at Porter and Lewis points, including two fish ladders, the roads and culverts, as well as realign two streams to historic channels in the refuge, which encompasses about 16,000 acres of tidelands, rainforest, ocean beaches, sand dunes, rivers and small streams.

The project would have restored 760 acres and removed 5.7 miles of dikes and roads, 38 culverts and two tide gates, and would have realigned 18 estuary channels. A similar effort was proposed for the Reikkola area of the refuge south of Porter Point, but the Salmon Recovery Board now isn't sure what the future will hold.

"Now they are just trying to figure out if they can move forward or not," said Brian Abbott, salmon section manager for the board. "It's not funded and the board did pull the funding on it."

Abbott said the board plans to revisit the issue at the end of August once the final refuge management plan is issued, possibly as early as this Friday.

"Our staff will report back on the public engagement process, and then we'll see where it goes from there," Abbott said.

While the Fish & Wildlife preferred option calls for the removal of the dikes and roads, a final plan has yet to be formally adopted or approved.

That's left the Pacific Conservation District, the county agency that initially approved the dike removal, apologizing to the public and user groups for taking action prematurely.

"The public felt like we were basically putting the cart before the horse," said Mike Johnson of the conservation district, which serves as what is known as the lead entity for salmon recovery projects in the area.

Hunters were the biggest user opponents, arguing the Lewis Point dike creates fresh water feeding grounds for thousands of migrating ducks each year, and the Porter Point unit is also home to a herd of 40 to 60 elk.

"I honestly thought this project was a win-win, and I was completely wrong," Johnson said.

POLITICAL OPPOSITION

After the management plan was proposed earlier this year, local landowners, several user groups as well as state and federal lawmakers began to question some of the key elements proposed by Fish & Wildlife.

An April 20 letter from Republican Congresswoman Jaime Herrra Beutler of Camus, state Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Raymond, and state Reps. Brian Blake, D-Aberdeen, and Dean Takko, D-Longview, appealed for the Salmon Recovery Board to stop funding on the first step in the refuge management plan to remove dikes at Porter and Lewis points.

"In this time of deep budgetary limitations, we are extremely concerned at the burden this project will place upon our taxpayers," the lawmakers said in the letter. "Just as importantly, the possibility of serious environmental consequence from this project on other wildlife has recently come to light."

The letter states that the dike removal will harm threatened dusky Canada geese with "permanent loss of upland foraging habitat." It also said the removal will force elk from their traditional pasturing lands and force the elk into local cranberry bogs and private pasture lands.

The plan originally was approved by Johnson and the Pacific Conservation District last year, but that was before the backlash.

"At that time we had a committee that wasn't very functional," Johnson said. "I don't think it really represented the citizens of our area very well, and the project got passed through and was ranked No. 1 within our community."

It also was backed by the Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group, but Johnson said his district "began to get a fairly large uproar" from some local cranberry producers as well as duck and goose hunters.

"They felt the removal of the dikes would adversely affect waterfowl hunting and that it would displace elk from the refuge property where the dikes had been removed. The concern was that you would flood the land and then the elk would move onto adjacent cranberry bogs," Johnson said.

The refuge plan then was unanimously opposed by Pacific County commissioners, who questioned the large property expansion and plans to remove the dikes.

CLOSER LOOK

Of the approximately 43 similar restoration projects he could recall in Pacific County, Johnson said the refuge project was the only one with such public opposition.

"When I reviewed the project, I looked at it more from a technical side, and quite frankly I didn't think there would be any public opposition to it because it was

on a federally owned refuge property," he said. "But a lot of folks felt that more acreage into the refuge was not a positive thing."

Johnson noted that many hunters helped pay for the original work on the dikes through the sale of annual duck stamps.

"These were fresh-water habitats for ducks and geese, and they need that as well as the estuarine habitat," he said.

After hearing from opponents to the district's initial approval of the project, Johnson said he came to the conclusion it needed a closer look. He noted the Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group also has withdrawn its support.

"At this point in time, if it has a pulse, it's very light," Johnson said. He said he believes a letter will be written asking that the money originally set aside for the project be put into another salmon recovery effort in the coastal region or in Pacific County.

"This project was rated within the State of Washington as one of their top-tier projects. I guess we just took for granted that there would be a happy ending and a good technically sound environmental project, but we completely missed the boat with the community aspect," he said. "That's a huge part of this salmon recovery effort — you have to keep your community engaged, and I think I failed at that miserably."

On its merits, the refuge dike removal also seemed like the perfect project for the Salmon Recovery Board to administer in concert with the Fish & Wildlife Service.

"It's to benefit juvenile fish and the ecosystem as a whole, which in turn benefits salmon recovery," Abbott said.

He called the project "extremely cost-effective" compared to the cost of similar projects in Puget Sound. The restoration of the Nisqually River estuary cost more than $12 million.

"This is a good deal for what you are getting and what you are taking down," Abbott said. "It was a good idea and it was recognized as a notable project in our review process."

But until Fish & Wildlife makes a final decision on its management plan, the state agency isn't planning further action.

"Until then, we don't do a lot as far as deciding, are we going to put money into it or not," Abbot said.

GOING FORWARD

Stenvall noted that the dikes did serve a purpose in helping preserve habitat for wildlife when the south end of the bay was invaded by the spread of spartina, a non-native invasive marine weed. But he said that efforts to eradicate the spartina have proved to be successful.

"At the point when we had a lot of spartina in the bay, it was kind of the only game in town. Back then, you couldn't even see water in the bay at high tide."

Once the spartina was removed, Stenvall said, the wildlife responded and now it's time to restore the estuary, too.

"Our shorebirds came back, other waterfowl, our goose populations. The fact of the matter is that if you look at tidal restoration it benefits not only salmon — which is a small component of why we're doing this — but it's beneficial to shorebirds, to geese, basically to anything that historically used to use the salt marsh. It would be much better for them than the way we're managing it right now."

The dike itself, Stenvall said, has some serious prob-

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Refuge Comprehensive plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is set to announce its final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge on Aug. 12. Here are some of the key proposals in alternatives 2 and 3, which would make several key changes and additions to the 16,000 acres now set aside for the refuge.

- An expansion of the land acquisition boundary, including 1,908 acres in the Nemah and Naselle areas; 561 acres in South Bay; and 4,334 acres in East Hills.
- About 749 acres of open water, intertidal flats and salt marsh would be created.
- A new interpretive trail and wildlife observation deck would be built along the South Bay, connecting to a proposed new visitor center with staff offices and a maintenance facility.
- At Leadbetter point on the Long Beach peninsula, a predator management program would attempt to increase the Western snowy plover population. Up to 33 acres would be set aside to re-introduce the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly in the area.
- A new boat launch with an access point to South Bay for car-top boats would be built; there would expanded dates for waterfowl, elk and deer hunting; and the agency would consider divesting two properties at Cape Shoalwater and Wheaton.

For more information, visit the Comprehensive Conservation Plan Website: http://www.fws.gov/willapa/CCP/CCP.html

lems with maintenance: "The cost estimates for us to maintain it would be twice as much as it costs for us to take it out."

If the final decision is to take the dike down, Stenvall said the job would be relatively easy, with the project to be done in phases over three years.

"Essentially, we will be putting the material back" that was used to build the dike, he said.

While he wouldn't reveal the details of the pending final decision on the plan, Stenvall said it is likely to be "very close" to what was initially proposed.

"We have addressed the public comment that we got. There was concern from hunters about access, and ease of hunting, and we did get concern about driving the elk into the cranberry bogs. We did a few things based on that and that makes it a little bit different than what we came out with in the draft," he said.

On the other side of the dike from the bay, cattle graze as part of a permitted use from April to October. A small lake has formed where Fish & Wildlife is trying to manage invasive species like reed canary grass that can take over if water levels are not adjusted.

Stenvall said the area has averaged 45 hunters a season for the past five or six years for goose permits. With the new plan, he contends hunters will actually gain from the changes with more waterfowl and better habitat, even if it will take a little more effort.

"Now the access will be a little more difficult and you will have to watch the tides and hunt the bay the way it was meant to be hunted. But the habitat will always be there," he said.

2219

Stanwood, WA
(Snohomish Co.)
Stanwood Camano
News
(Cir. W. 18,200)

SEP 20 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Salmon habitat

More information on restoration

2219

Dear Editor,

I would like to see more balanced information about the project that is proposed for Salmon Recovery Board Funding at Camano Island State Park.

Especially the background of how the project was conceived and more information about the credentials of the Skagit River System Cooperative.

The information provided to date is scant and slanted toward those against the project. There are some facts that where missing from the articles on this subject.

First, the proposal is for design/permitting funding, as opposed to construction.

Second, the project was selected for conceptual design by the Skagit River System Cooperative after extensive studies of the Camano Shoreline (over 96 sites looked at) to determine where the site with the greatest salmon restoration potential was.

Third, Friends of Camano Island Parks and the state parks, which both have dual missions to support the environment and use the park for recreational uses, support the project. It will not involve any net loss of use area.

The maps presented were only the potential restoration areas, not a final plan.

This proposed project is not about losing anything; it is about re-gaining our natural heritage and to conduct environmental education when a salmon nursery is established.

Thanks to Beach Watchers seining (near shore netting) in the area, they realized how many baby salmon were found along the beach.

That started a series of studies to find the most likely area for possible near shore restoration. Nearshore saltwater habitats are the *creme de la creme* for baby Chinook salmon, as places they can avoid predators and get fat.

With the number of people who are into fishing, you would think folks would be jumping for joy at the prospect of increasing salmon numbers from their currently depressed state.

Allison Warner
Camano Island

2219

8/28/2011 8:15:00 AM

Ala Spit open house focuses on salmon restoration project

A project aimed at reducing erosion and loss of habitat at Island County's Ala Spit Park will get under way in mid-September, with a temporary park closure planned as workers complete the job.

Workers are to remove a riprap revetment made up of large boulders and concrete structures that was installed at the Spit in the 1960s. The Island County Health Department project, which is being paid for through a state grant, is designed to protect long-term public access to the spit and restore juvenile salmon habitat.

An open house is planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 at Ala Spit, which is located just off Jones Road in North Whidbey. Nearby residents, fishers, beach walkers, bird watchers and other park visitors are invited to come and learn about the project.

Construction is to take place from Sept. 19 through Oct. 31. Permits obtained for the project require all work below the high-water mark to be completed by Oct.14. The park will be closed during the construction period.

The restoration project is the second phase of work at Ala Spit. The first phase, which also was funded by a grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, encompassed a two-year scientific assessment by Herrera Environmental Consultants. Herrera conducted a review of historic information and photographs; geomorphic shoreline changes; beach substrate; sediment development; aquatic habitat; fish habitat and use; the role of Ala Spit's riparian vegetation, dune plants and driftwood; and watershed characterization.

A copy of the report and project plans for restoration can be found at islandcountyeh.org/Projects.

The Ala Spit restoration project underwent a rigorous local, regional and then statewide evaluation process, intended to identify the most effective and scientifically sound proposals to benefit salmonids listed as threatened or endangered with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Island County is located in the migration corridors used by most Puget Sound juvenile and adult salmon and trout populations. The near-shore and coastal estuaries of sites such as Ala Spit have been documented to provide critical shelter, food and refuge for these fish.

Ala Spit, located off Jones road on Skagit Bay, is 5 miles from the mouth of the Skagit River and is home to Chinook salmon and other important fish stocks. The park comprises four acres of uplands, 5,000 linear feet of beach and tidelands, plus the 8-acre sand and gravel spit that supports forage fish and juvenile salmon as they migrate from the Skagit to the ocean.

Ala Spit Island County Park was established in 1995. Its purchase was made possible by grants from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office and the county's Conservation Futures fund.

Article Comment Submission Form

Please feel free to submit your comments.

Article comments are not posted immediately to the Web site. Each submission must be approved by the Web site editor, who may edit content for appropriateness. There may be a delay of 24-48 hours for any submission while the web site editor reviews and approves and posts it.

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Issaquah, WA
(King Co.)
Issaquah Press
(Cir. W. 12,940)

AUG 24 2011
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

2219

Creeks sustain sound, salmon

Issaquah, Tibbetts water quality is good, but concerns remain

By Warren Kagarise
Issaquah Press reporter

*The creeks crisscrossing Is*saquah remain in good condition, despite increased construction nearby, a population boom in the surrounding watershed and, alongside both developments, more potential for pollution.

The water quality in Issaquah and Tibbetts creeks is good, although storm water runoff causes the quality in both creeks to decline. Tibbetts Creek is more affected than Issaquah Creek, in large part due to the pollutant-laden runoff from buildings, streets and other man-made structures in the business district along Northwest Gilman Boulevard.

City Surface Water Manager Kerry Ritland detailed the conditions in the recent State of Our Waters report — a briefing about water quality monitoring conducted last year and in 2009.

Concerns also remain about elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria — a byproduct from livestock and pets — and low levels of dissolved oxygen in the streams. Fish cannot breathe as easily if the water contains insufficient levels of dissolved oxygen.

Other pollutants, such as copper, lead and other dissolved metals — a toxic hazard to fish — occurred in small but acceptable amounts. Teams did not detect pesticides or herbicides in Issaquah Creek, but detected a low concentration of herbicide in a single sample from Tibbetts Creek.

See **WATER,** *Page A5*

BY GREG FARRAR

Michael Friel, 10, brushes dirt off a curb, as his dad Mike (left), Molly Caskey and her son Ian, 10, glue the back of a Puget Sound Starts Here tile to glue next to a storm drain in the Issaquah Highlands.

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Water

FROM PAGE A1

"The waters are not too bad in our local creeks, but there are concerns — occasional violations of water-quality standards — and we strive to eventually achieve better conditions over time," Ritland said. "It takes time to make improvements."

Teams started monitoring water quality in Issaquah and Tibbetts creeks on a regular basis 12 years ago. The city released the last such report in 2007 to include data collected from 2003-06.

In the meantime, state lawmakers enacted regulations on copper in automotive brake pads, phosphorous in dish detergents and other potential contaminants.

The city also embarked on measures to control pollution at sources — such as businesses using harmful materials — and restore habitat along the creeks. The effort requires patience, because some processes require years or decades to produce measurable results.

"It's hard to get a complete picture because it's so variable," Ritland said. "So, the more data you get, the better picture you get. It takes awhile."

Though major floods can cause problems, as pollutants and sediments rush into creeks, storm water runoff is a more consistent issue.

"The water quality seems pretty consistent otherwise," Ritland said. "It's more affected by rainfall, water washing off streets and getting into the streams."

From the creeks to the sound

Experts said the efforts to assess and address problems in Issaquah creeks fit into a regional push to clean up Puget Sound.

BY GREG FARRAR

Volunteers pressed plastic tiles with quick-drying glue backing onto concrete curbs next to area storm drains during a recent drain-marking event.

"Issaquah Creek is what people in that region can directly control, and then they have a secondary effect on Puget Sound itself," said Mindy Roberts, a state Department of Ecology environmental engineer. "Cleaning up the watershed piece by piece, in efforts like what's happening in Issaquah Creek, that's really what has to happen."

The city joined a study early in the last decade to determine sources of contaminants in Issaquah Creek. The report, released in 2004, listed storm water runoff and discharge from septic systems as major pollution sources in the stream.

Other data collected in Puget Sound and tributaries point to human activity as the major culprit for pollution in the sound and related waterways.

"Overall what it shows, which is not surprising, is that most problems occur and the largest concentrations of these contaminants occur where people occur," Roberts said. "It's where we live, where we work, where we play, where we drive. When those areas are most concentrated then, not surprisingly, that's where we see the issues."

State lawmakers created a state agency, the Puget Sound Partnership, to spearhead cleanup and restoration efforts. In recent years, the emphasis shifted from confronting industrial polluters to addressing how everyday behaviors — such as fertilizing lawns or washing cars — can affect Puget Sound.

"Most people know that Puget Sound is something they want to protect and if they're given ways to try to help do that, they will," said Susan Zemek, communications manager for the Tacoma-based agency.

The effort includes a public awareness campaign, Puget Sound Starts Here, to remind the 4 million people in the 12 counties surrounding the sound about the link between storm drains, waterways and Puget Sound.

The campaign is encouraging people to scoop up and toss pet waste into the trash, because scientists said doo-doo is a major source of fecal coliform bacteria in local lakes and streams.

"It's surprising, because it's just one little dog, but then when you add that up across the number of dogs that we have in the Puget Sound region, it really adds up to quite a bit," Roberts said. "It may not be something that's 100 percent of the problem, but it's certainly a controllable part of the problem."

Warren Kagarise: 392-6434, ext. 234, or wkagarise@isspress.com. Comment at www.issaquahpress.com.

CLEAN UP AFTER PETS

Pet waste contains hazardous organisms and can cause contamination in local streams, rivers and lakes. Runoff after rain carries fecal coliform bacteria in doo-doo into storm drains, ditches and streams feeding local rivers, lakes and Puget Sound. The bacteria in waste can make water unsafe to swim in or drink.

The public awareness campaign from Puget Sound Starts Here reminds pet owners to keep yards clean of pet waste by scooping at least once a week, if possible, and carrying a plastic bag to scoop and dispose of poop. Plus, not picking up dog waste on public property is illegal.

Learn more tips to prevent Puget Sound pollution at *www.pugetsoundstartshere.org*. Or watch a humorous public-service announcement about cleaning up after pets, titled "Dog Doogity," from musician Martin Luther, at *www.pugetsound-startshere.org/scoop-poop*.

ON THE WEB

Learn more about the regional effort to clean up Puget Sound at the Puget Sound Partnership website, *www.psp.wa.gov*.

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Issaquah, WA
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2219

BY GREG FARRAR

On the East Fork of Issaquah Creek at Third Avenue Northeast and Northeast Creek Way, plans call for the rockery bank wall to be removed and a log weir to be created.

Planners propose 11 projects to restore chinook, kokanee habitat

By Warren Kagarise
Issaquah Press reporter

Creeks leading to Lake Sammamish could serve as staging areas in the years ahead for a bold plan to restore salmon habitat.

The regional Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group has proposed 11 projects in Issaquah and Sammamish to restore habitat for chinook salmon — a species protected under the Endangered Species Act — and dwindling Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon.

The once-abundant kokanee has declined in recent decades, perhaps due to construction near creeks, increased predators, disease or changes in water quality. Scientists estimated the total 2010 run at 58 fish, including the 40 kokanee spawned at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery in a last-ditch effort to save the species.

The proposed projects range from colossal — such as rerouting Laughing Jacobs Creek through Lake Sammamish State Park — to small — adding plants in the Lewis Creek delta, for instance.

The intention is to implement the projects by 2016 — a bold goal considering local governments' lean budgets in recent years. In the meantime, the kokanee team is encouraging local leaders and landowners to design, apply for grants and prioritize the projects as soon as possible.

The list does not include some major projects on purpose, due to the enormous time and funding commitments required. The omitted items include a culvert beneath Interstate 90 — a barrier to upstream passage into upper Lewis Creek — and culverts on George Davis and Zaccuse creeks.

The kokanee team released the project list as local environmen-

"Issaquah Creek is listed in the recovery plans for the area as something that has got relatively high-quality habitat and relatively high fish use. These are areas that are high priorities for protection."

— Susan Zemck
Puget Sound Partnership communications manager

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Creeks

FROM PAGE A1

talists and elected leaders await a decision on endangered status for Lake Sammamish kokanee. The decision from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is due before the end of the year.

Salmon prompt cooperation

The restoration effort is also meant to encourage local governments, landowners and environmentalists to cooperate to restore the salmon species.

"People are trying to do the right thing without a regulatory hammer," said Hans Berge, a county environmental scientist and a Lake Sammamish kokanee expert. "We're trying to develop the carrot, but we don't have a hammer yet and we don't really have a carrot, but nevertheless, these jurisdictions are all working really well together and trying to support one another in making these things move forward."

Lake Sammamish tributary streams serve as crucial spawning habitat for chinook, kokanee and other salmon species. Construction along the creeks and pollution from storm water runoff create threats to adult salmon, fry and eggs.

"Especially for kokanee and chinook, the focus is really on that egg-to-migrant survival, so getting them out of the creek into the lake safely is where the focus is across the board," Berge said.

The group used funding from the King Conservation District to complete the list. Securing dollars to examine kokanee restoration projects requires some creativity.

"Kokanee, since they're not listed as threatened, they don't have the eligibility for a lot of the funding sources, like the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, for example," Berge said. "If we can do projects that benefit chinook that also have benefits for kokanee, then that's the win-win situation."

So, a kokanee-centric list of possible restoration projects might appear much different than the combined proposal.

Stopgap measure continues

Local environmental groups, governments and the Snoqualmie Tribe petitioned in 2007 to list the landlocked salmon species as endangered.

If the Fish & Wildlife Service lists a species as endangered, biologists create rules to protect the animal from human interference, designate critical habitat and joins state agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations to increase the species' chance of survival.

Teams collected adult kokanee from the streams in 2009 and last year. The agencies combined efforts to spawn the fish at the Issaquah hatchery, and then rear the eggs to fry at the Issaquah hatchery and the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery on the Olympic Peninsula.

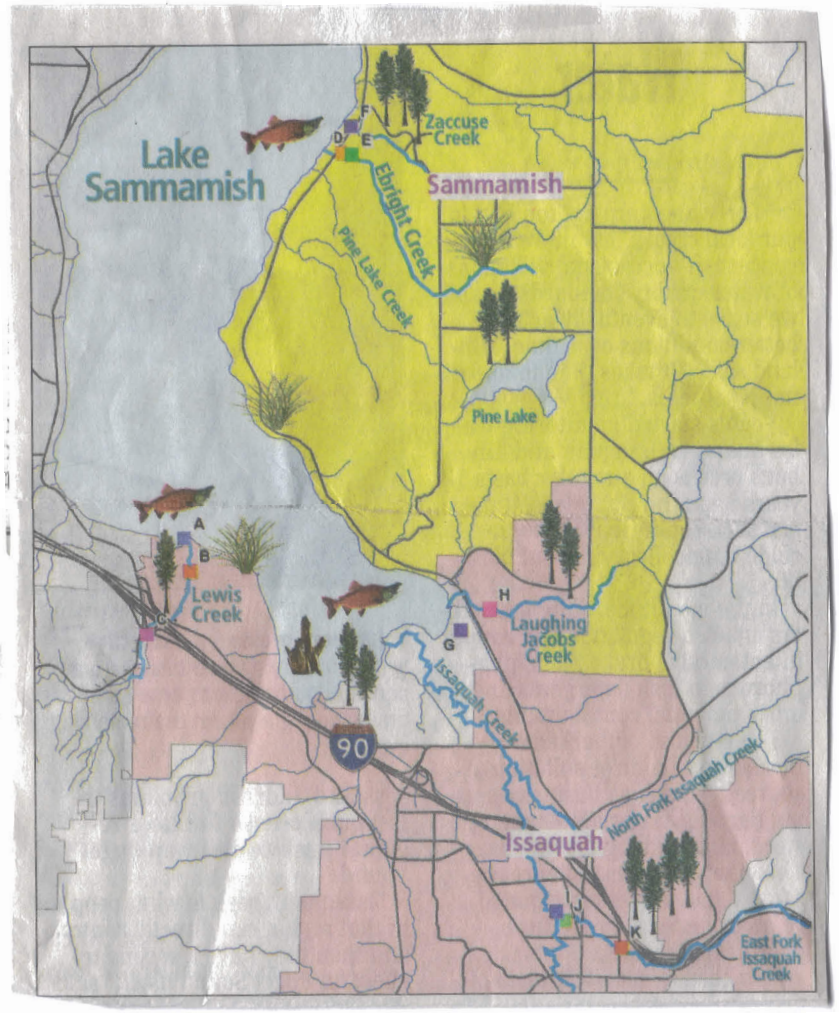
The stopgap measure encompasses the Fish & Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and King County.

In the meantime, planners identified the possible projects to boost the potential for the species' long-term survival.

"We need to make sure that these habitat projects happen sooner rather than later, while we still have the supplementation program to help us support it and get it started," Berge said.

Susan Zemek, communications manager for the Puget Sound Partnership — a state agency leading the cleanup of the sound — said restoring habitat along Lake Sammamish is a smart decision.

"Issaquah Creek is listed in the recovery plans for the area as something that has got relatively high-quality habitat and relatively high fish use," she said. "These are areas that are high priorities for protection."



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PROPOSED RESTORATION PROJECTS

The regional Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group has proposed 11 projects in Issaquah and Sammamish to restore habitat for chinook and Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon.

A. Lewis Creek: delta restoration
Restore the natural shoreline by regrading the beach to a shallower slope, and adding a combination of buffers and plantings to retain finer sand.
B. Lewis Creek: gabion reach stabilization
Creating a weir-and-pool formation in the channel to dissipate hydraulic energy, and install wood at the toe of the wall to prevent failure.
C. Lewis Creek: trash rack edification
Redesign the trash rack to reduce the accumulation of debris and sediment blocking the culvert intake and causing impounded water.
D. Ebright Creek: wetland enhancement
Install wood and other natural features to consolidate flows through the Pereyra Wetland and create a single, defined channel.
E. Ebright Creek: fish passage restoration
Remove a fish-blocking pipe culvert and add a larger concrete box culvert to allow upstream migrating kokanee to access spawning habitat.
F. Zaccuse Creek: trail culvert removal
Remove the pipe culvert under the East Lake Sammamish Trail and add a footbridge to extend exposed areas of the creek.
G. Laughing Jacobs Creek: Lake Sammamish State Park channel reroute
Create a new stream channel, including bed, bank and riparian zone, through the Lake Sammamish State Park wetland area south of the boat launch.
H. Laughing Jacobs Creek: Hans Jensen habitat enhancement
Enhance the existing stream channel by installing pool-forming structures, bank-softening measures and additional spawning gravel, as well as reroute the reach downstream of the footbridge.
I. Issaquah Creek: Cybil-Madeleine Park habitat enhancement
Regrade banks to a gentler slope, add large pieces of wood and other pool-forming features, and create side-channel habitat.
J. East Fork of Issaquah Creek: confluence restoration
Remove armoring and regrade the right bank to a lower angled slope to increase connection to floodplain. Add large wood pieces to the channel to create pool habitat and plant riparian species on the banks. Excavate gravel from the confluence and redistribute upstream to encourage kokanee and chinook spawning.
K. East Fork of Issaquah Creek: Third Avenue Northeast and Northeast Creek Street habitat enhancement
Install a log weir to create a plunge pool to dissipate the energy of high flows and help prevent scouring of spawning gravels downstream. Remove bank armoring and regrade the slope to add flood storage capacity.

Seattle, WA
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State gets $28M for salmon recovery

OLYMPIA — This week, the federal government awarded the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board a $28 million federal grant to continue the state's investment in salmon recovery.

Of the $28 million, $15.5 million will be awarded by the board for projects statewide that will restore and protect rivers, streams and estuaries increasing the places that salmon need for spawning, rearing, migrating and feeding.

Another $8.2 million of the federal grant goes to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for hatchery and harvest reform projects. Salmon monitoring projects in the state will receive $3.2 million.

Congress created the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund in 2000 to restore Pacific salmon populations. The fund, along with a state match, is the primary source of funding for salmon recovery in Washington.

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Meeting Thursday on Camano Island estuary

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a public meeting Thursday and take comments on a proposal to restore a saltwater estuary and lagoon at Camano Island State Park.

The meeting is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cama Center at Cama Beach State Park, 1880 S.W. Camano Drive.

The Skagit River System Cooperative asked Washington State Parks for permission to restore a saltwater estuary and lagoon at the popular park to add salmon rearing habitat. SRSC has applied for a state salmon recovery grant to do a feasibility study and prepare design options. The state has supported the SRSC grant application, provided the effort will not diminish the park experience.

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(King Co.)
The Sammamish
Review
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Creek projects could aid threatened chinook, kokanee

2219

By Warren Kagarise

Creeks leading to Lake Sammamish could serve as staging areas in the years ahead for a bold plan to restore salmon habitat.

The regional Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group has proposed 11 projects in Issaquah and Sammamish to restore habitat for chinook salmon — a species protected under the Endangered Species Act — and dwindling Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon.

The once-abundant kokanee has declined in recent decades, perhaps due to construction near creeks, increased predators, disease or changes in water quality. Scientists estimated the total 2010 run at 58 fish, including the 40 kokanee spawned at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery in a last-ditch effort to save the species.

The proposed projects range from colossal — such as rerouting Laughing Jacobs Creek through Lake Sammamish State Park — to small — adding plants in the Lewis Creek delta, for instance.

The intention is to implement the projects by 2016 — a bold goal considering local governments' lean budgets in recent years. In the meantime, the kokanee team is encouraging local leaders and landowners to design, apply for grants and prioritize the projects as soon as possible.

The list does not include some major projects on purpose, due to the enormous time and funding commitments required. The omitted items include a culvert beneath Interstate 90 — a barrier to upstream passage into upper Lewis Creek — and culverts on George Davis and Zaccuse creeks.

The kokanee team released the project list as local environmentalists and elected leaders await a decision on endangered status for Lake Sammamish kokanee. The decision from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is due before the end of the year.

Salmon prompt cooperation

The restoration effort is also meant to encourage local governments, landowners and environmentalists to cooperate to restore

See CREEK, Page 5

Proposed restoration projects

The regional Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group has proposed 11 projects in Issaquah and Sammamish to restore habitat for chinook and Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon.

Lewis Creek

1. Restore the natural shoreline by regrading the beach to a shallower slope, and adding a combination of buffers and plantings to retain finer sand.
2. Create a weir-and-pool formation in the channel to dissipate hydraulic energy, and install wood at the toe of the wall to prevent failure.
3. Redesign the trash rack to reduce the accumulation of debris and sediment blocking the culvert intake and causing impounded water.

Ebright Creek

4. Install wood and other natural features to consolidate flows through the Pereyra Wetland and create a single, defined channel.
5. Remove a fish-blocking pipe culvert and add a larger concrete box culvert to allow upstream migrating kokanee to access spawning habitat.

Zaccuse Creek

6. Remove the pipe culvert under the East Lake Sammamish Trail and add a footbridge to extend exposed areas of the creek.

Laughing Jacobs Creek

7. Create a new stream channel, including bed, bank and riparian zone, through the Lake Sammamish State Park wetland area south of the boat launch.
8. Enhance the existing stream channel by installing pool-forming structures, bank-softening measures and additional spawning gravel, as well as reroute the reach downstream of the footbridge.

Issaquah Creek

9. Regrade banks to a gentler slope, add large pieces of wood and other pool-forming features, and create side-channel habitat.

East Fork of Issaquah Creek

10. Remove armoring and regrade the right bank to a lower angled slope to increase connection to floodplain. Add large wood pieces to the channel to create pool habitat and plant riparian species on the banks. Excavate gravel from the confluence and redistribute upstream to encourage kokanee and chinook spawning.
11. Install a log weir to create a plunge pool to dissipate the energy of high flows and help prevent scouring of spawning gravels downstream. Remove bank armoring and regrade the slope to add flood storage capacity.

1 of 2

Creek

Continued from Page 3

the salmon species.

"People are trying to do the right thing without a regulatory hammer," said Hans Berge, a county environmental scientist and a Lake Sammamish kokanee expert. "We're trying to develop the carrot, but we don't have a hammer yet and we don't really have a carrot, but nevertheless, these jurisdictions are all working really well together and trying to support one another in making these things move forward."

Lake Sammamish tributary streams serve as crucial spawning habitat for chinook, kokanee and other salmon species. Construction along the creeks and pollution from storm water runoff create threats to adult salmon, fry and eggs.

"Especially for kokanee and chinook, the focus is really on that egg-to-migrant survival, so getting them out of the creek into the lake safely is where the focus is across the board," Berge said.

The group used funding from the King Conservation District to complete the list. Securing dollars to examine kokanee restoration projects requires some creativity.

"Kokanee, since they're not listed as threatened, they don't have the eligibility for a lot of the funding sources, like the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, for example," Berge said. "If we can do projects that benefit chinook that also have benefits for kokanee, then that's the win-win situation."

So, a kokanee-centric list of possible restoration projects might appear much different than the combined proposal.

Stopgap measure continues

Local environmental groups, governments and the Snoqualmie Tribe petitioned in 2007 to list the landlocked salmon species as endangered.

If the Fish & Wildlife Service lists a species as endangered, biologists create rules to protect the animal from human interference, designate critical habitat and joins state agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations to increase the species' chance of survival.

Teams collected adult kokanee from the streams in 2009 and last year.

The agencies combined efforts to spawn the fish at the Issaquah hatchery, and then rear the eggs to fry at the Issaquah hatchery and the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery on the Olympic Peninsula.

The stopgap measure encompasses the Fish & Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and King County.

In the meantime, planners identified the possible projects to boost the potential for the species' long-term survival.

"We need to make sure that these habitat projects happen sooner rather than later, while we still have the supplementation program to help us support it and get it started," Berge said.

Susan Zemek, communications manager for the Puget Sound Partnership — a state agency leading the cleanup of the sound — said restoring habitat along Lake Sammamish is a smart decision.

"Issaquah Creek is listed in the recovery plans for the area as something that has got relatively high-quality habitat and relatively high fish use," she said. "These are areas that are high priorities for protection."

Reach reporter Warren Kagarise at 392-6434, ext. 234, or wkagarise@isspress.com. To comment on this story, visit www.SammamishReview.com.

2219

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Bremerton, WA
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Wage rule unmet

2219

By Tristan Baurick
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BAINBRIDGE ISLAND – The city of Bainbridge Island failed to properly administer wage requirements for two recent shoreline restoration projects, according to a state auditor's office determination released Monday.

The city did not include federal prevailing wage, suspension and debarment requirements in its contracts for construction of the Strawberry Plant Park and Pritchard Park restoration projects. Both projects, which involved replacing bulkheads with planted slopes, were completed early this year.

The city had to follow the requirements because the project budgets used nearly $400,000 in federal money through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

"Without adequate internal controls, the city cannot ensure the contractors paid workers the proper wages," the auditor report states. "The city could be liable for paying additional wages if prevailing wage was not paid."

The report does not indicate workers were improperly paid. No penalties for the city were indicated.

The report recommends the city establish and follow procedures to ensure it communicates federal requirements to staff responsible for administering federal programs.

The city accepted the report's findings, explaining that the wage requirement was not met because of an "unusual situation" in which the projects' management was transferred between the Planning and Public Works departments. The wage rules were not properly communicated during the transfer, the city wrote in response.

Kitsap Sun

Printer-friendly story
Read more at kitsapsun.com

Restoration Project Complete for Klingel Wetland

By Rodika Tollefson

Sunday, September 11, 2011

BELFAIR — The Great Peninsula Conservancy has completed its first habitat restoration project. In August, work was finished on turning an old farming dike to saltwater marsh at Klingel Wetland, which is the GPC's longest-owned property.

The wetland is located along Hood Canal's north shore, off State Route 300, and is adjacent to Pat's Little Red Barn.

Based in Bremerton, the nonprofit organization preserves rural landscapes and natural habitat and owns several properties in North Mason area, including the nearby 21.5-acre Jimmy Bryan Wetland. For the Klingel project, GPC partnered with several agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The work centered on 13 acres of the 90-acre preserve. In addition to the removal of a 1,450-foot-long dike, a new dike was built closer to State Route 300 to help protect adjoining properties and the road from flooding.

With the dike removal, the marsh was connected back to Hood Canal and made accessible to young salmon, which come from Union River.

"We've given back to salmon and other marine life," said GPC Executive Director Sandra Staples-Bortner. "The salmon can now feed, grow and be protected from predators."

GPC has owned the original 66 acres since 1985, donated by Elizabeth Klingel to what was then the Hood Canal Land Trust. Later donations of adjacent land by Robert and Cathy Bryan and Oda Beard brought the total size to 90 acres.

In the '80s, the parcel, part of Lynch Cove Estuary, was one of the state's only 14 pristine coastal areas left. Neighbors Gary and Celia Parrott recognized its importance and started a process of preserving the land, with the blessing of Klingel and her brother, Terry.

Local conservation trusts were still new in those days, and the Parrotts helped the Klingels in approaching national organizations such as the Nature Conservancy for help. They heard the same thing: The property should be preserved through local

channels. Their efforts led to the creation of Hood Canal Land Trust, which later merged into Great Peninsula Conservancy.

Rich in wildlife habitat, including some rare species such as trumpeter swans and white pelicans, the Klingel Wetland has been on the restoration wish list for several groups for more than 30 years.

“It’s been a long-standing project,” Staples-Bortner said.

The 13-acre portion was previously diked to create pastures and hayfields, but has not been farmed in 35 years. The dike caused a large part of the pasture to become a freshwater wetland and prevented saltwater from reaching into the wetland. With the dike removal, Hood Canal tides will slowly retake the land. The project included the re-creation of old tide channels.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided nearly $200,000 for construction through the USDA Wetland Reserve Program. The agency also has owned a conservation easement on the property since 2004.

Other funding came from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office through a salmon recovery grant ($57,000) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ($54,000 through an estuary and salmon restoration program).

All the work was sourced locally. Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group provided project design and Pat McCullough of Belfair-based ESA Inc. served as consulting engineer. Zephyr Construction, a family-owned Allyn company, was the contractor, and Staples-Bortner said the crews went to great lengths to minimize impact on the site and to comply with the many restrictions.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Ducks Unlimited and Mason County were also partners on the project.

Another $43,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s marine riparian initiative will pay for replanting the 13 acres with native plants and for the removal of invasive species. Work will be done this fall by the Mason County Conservation Corps.

“We’re using that grant for planting vegetation along the shoreline on the 13-plus acres, and to rehabilitate the staging area,” said GPC Operations Director Kate Kuhlman.

Mason County Conservation, which is administering the grant and providing the work, had already planted some areas this past spring. The saltwater will kill the freshwater species on its own but the new plantings will take several years to establish.

Staples-Bortner said it will take some time for the marsh to completely restore itself. The organization is asking people not to visit the area for the next few months — probably until next year — to give the recovery time.

Future plans may include the addition of educational signs and displays as well as some trails for bird watching.

Great Peninsula Conservancy will monitor the restoration process at the Klingel Wetland. The organization is also scoping out other projects for Hood Canal restoration work, including a potential parcel on the Tahuya Peninsula.

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Land purchase to benefit Skokomish restoration

2219

By Christopher Dunagan
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SKOKOMISH – A purchase of 160 acres of wetlands at the critical confluence of the north and south forks of the Skokomish River will protect habitat for salmon, including "threatened" chinook, summer chum and steelhead, experts say.

Funding came from Washington state through the Salmon Recovery Fund, administered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program, administered through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Conserving these properties will make a positive impact on the region's important salmon population and give our partners flexibility in their broader restoration goals in the Hood Canal basin," Sam Gibboney of the Cascade Land Conservancy said in a prepared statement.

Grants were given to a partnership between CLC, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. Green Diamond Resource Company sold 131 forested acres on the south side of the Skokomish River for $262,000. The other 29 acres were purchased from landowner Robert Rasmussen for $110,000.

Where the North Fork of the Skokomish comes into the South Fork has been considered a key to the restoration of the Skokomish River. Some biologists say efforts to control flooding in the area have constrained the river and damaged the wetland habitat.

Acquisition of the 160 acres will allow for creation of off-channel streams, which serve as resting and rearing habitat within the floodplain of the Skokomish River, Hood Canal's largest river system. Many people believe that restoring the river's natural functions will help heal the low-oxygen problems in southern Hood Canal.

The frequently flooded Skokomish River Road runs through the purchased property. The road provides the only access to farms, forests and homes in the Skokomish Valley. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is studying how to decrease flooding on the road, and the land acquisition could provide help with a solution.

Richard Brocksmith of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council said elected officials on his board are committed to the idea that humans can benefit from a healthy Hood Canal.

"This project is a great example of that vision," Brocksmith said, "in that one action can have multiple benefits for both humans and the ecosystem."

Join a discussion about all things water-related at Watching Our Water Ways, http://pugetsoundblogs.com/waterways, a blog at pugetsoundblogs.com.

North Kitsap Herald (Aug. 19 2011)

Unmapped creeks go unprotected | Ghost Streams

Jamie Glasgow of the Wild Fish Conservancy displays a juvenile trout – likely a cutthroat – netted in a incorrectly mapped section of Finn Creek in Hansville. Stream stretches misplaced on state maps may not be protected.
Tad Sooter/Staff Photo

By **TAD SOOTER**
North Kitsap Herald North End Reporter
Aug 05 2011
This is part 1 in a continuing series about water typing in North Kitsap. Find links, maps and more photos on our water typing resource page.

The stream Jamie Glasgow is wading through could easily be mistaken for a ditch. Pickups rumble by on Hansville Road, a few feet above the creek's banks. Beer bottles stud its silty bottom. None of that matters to Glasgow on this sunny July morning. He's stalking a fish. With a sudden motion, Glasgow plunges his dipnet beneath a grassy overhang and brings it back up with a shout.

"Salmonid!"

Sure enough, a tiny, juvenile trout is wriggling in the mesh of the net.

"It shouldn't be, but it's still a surprise to find salmonids in streams like this," said Glasgow, director of science for the non-profit Wild Fish Conservancy. "It's so easy to write them off. It's a ditch."
What's more surprising? This fish and this creek shouldn't be here.

A glance at an official state water typing map shows Finn Creek flowing toward the beach several hundred feet to the east. The stream and its fish habitat are marked authoritatively in dark blue, crossing an adjacent field. This seemingly small error is representative of a pervasive problem.

Water typing maps — created by the state Department of Natural Resources and relied on by most local governments for safeguarding stream habitat — are widely inaccurate and incomplete. A creek mapped in the wrong place or missed entirely may not receive the development buffers and protections it should under state law. By the same token, a non-existent stream erroneously marked as "fish bearing" can be a headache for property owners.

The Fish Conservancy is in its second year surveying streams in North Kitsap with grants from the state Salmon Recovery Board. The teams check the Natural Resources water typing maps for accuracy, while gathering stream and habitat data that can inform restoration work. Their findings are startling. One survey of Cowling Creek, north of Suquamish, found that Natural Resources maps missed 66 percent of the watershed, including four miles of fish-bearing streams.

The Fish Conservancy's work is valuable, but a real solution needs to come from the state, said Kathy Peters, who heads the West Sound Watershed Council and works through Kitsap's Department of Community Development.

"As local jurisdictions, we need to speak out on this, loud and clear," she said.

Wild Fish Conservancy Field Technician Frank Staller takes field notes July 28 on Hansville's Finn Creek. (Tad Sooter photo)

A 'best guess'

The Department of Natural Resources didn't have strip malls and townhouses in mind when it first developed its water typing maps in the 1970s.

What it needed was a way to locate and protect wetland habitat in areas being logged. To do this, the agency began mapping streams using topography to predict where water likely flowed.

The stream stretches are divided into one of four categories: shoreline, streams with fish or fish habitat, streams that don't support fish but flow year-round, and seasonal streams that don't support fish.

Beginning in 2005, the agency worked to improve the accuracy of its maps by entering more factors into a stream modeling computer program. Topography is still used to predict the location of streams, but field research, stream gradients, and watershed information is included to determine where fish habitat lies.

"There's been a lot of effort lately to add more data and improve the maps," Natural Resources spokesman Bryan Flint said.

Still, the computer model doesn't always get it right, a fact readily acknowledged by Natural Resources. The agency's website on water typing describes the model as a "best guess."

“These maps are provided as a starting point to help landowners identify and type streams on their property. However, it is the landowner’s responsibility to correctly identify and type all waters,” the site reads.

Errors can go both ways, Flint said. Sometimes the maps show less fish habitat than they should, sometimes they show more. Field checking maps across the state would take a massive amount of staff time and resources, Flint said. Natural Resources does require landowners to field check water types on their property before applying for forestry permits.

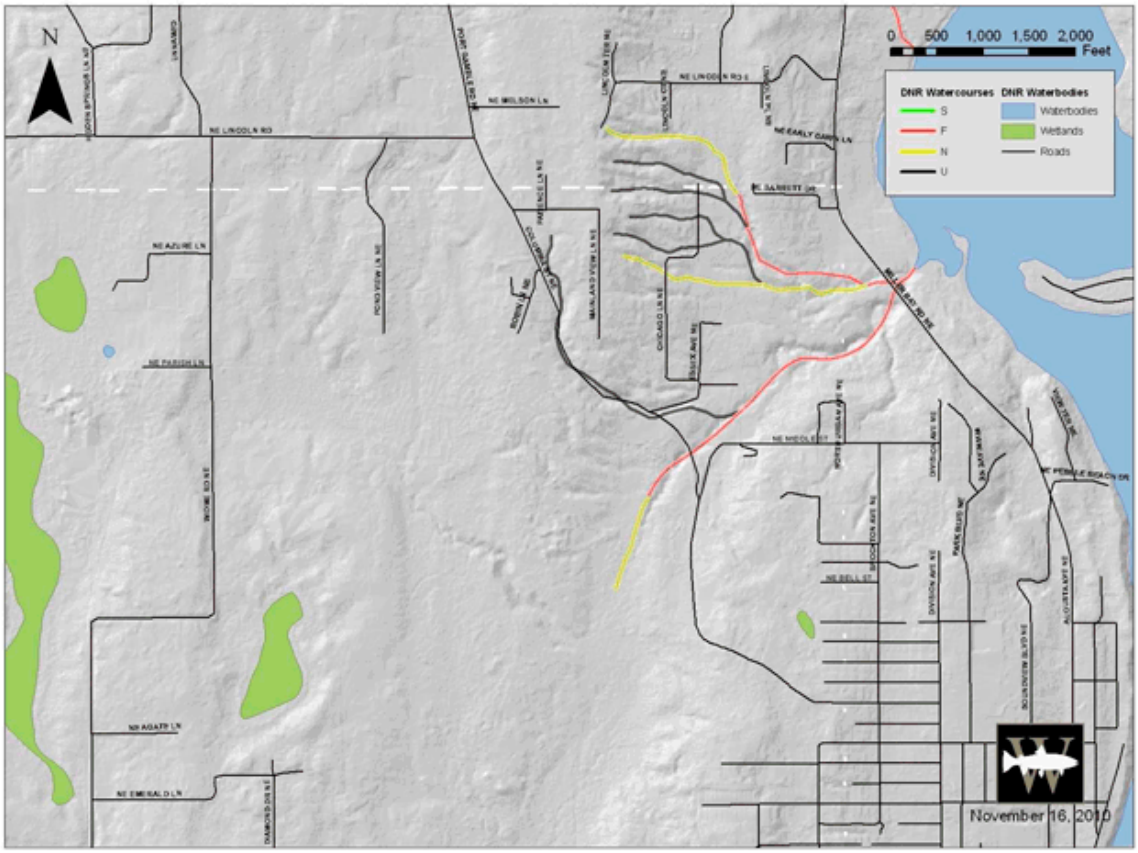
Despite the acknowledged inaccuracies, most local governments, including Kitsap County and the City of Poulsbo, have adopted the state maps into their code to help identify critical areas, as required by state law. That wasn’t the intended purpose of the maps, Flint said.

“That’s a challenge,” he said. “Because we see the maps as a starting point.”

Kitsap County’s code protecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas sets its protective stream buffers based on the Natural Resources classification system (buildings are set back 200 feet from fish-bearing streams, for example, and 50 feet from non-fish bearing). County planners inspect sites whenever a critical area is involved, Peters said, but use water typing maps to decide when to make a visit. If a stream isn’t mapped, it may go unprotected.

Peters and Glasgow say Natural Resource’s maps work especially poorly in Kitsap. The state’s model relies heavily on topography — hills, ravines and other geographic features — to predict where streams will flow. The peninsula is relatively flat, especially at the North End, where few elevations rise above 400 feet.

“We think our maps are worse than most,” Peters said.



An animation above compares Natural Resource's water typing map for Cowling Creek with the field survey completed by the Wild Fish Conservancy. Teams mark a series of GPS points (shown in orange) to chart stream stretches. Fish-bearing streams are marked in red, non fish-bearing in orange, and unknown in black. (Graphics courtesy Wild Fish Conservancy; animation by Dan McDougall)

Phantom streams

Back in Hansville, Jamie Glasgow and colleague Frank Staller have found an unmapped stream flowing beneath Twin Spits Road.

It runs in a straight line from from a wetland, through a culvert beneath the road and onto the beach. It's almost certainly a man made drainage, but under state law it should be a classified stream. In fact, Glasgow and Staller believe it could receive a fish bearing designation, because of its gentle flow, proximity to the shoreline and other factors dictated by law. The pair measures the width of the stream, note GPS points, measure and photograph the culvert, then troop to the outflow on the beach to repeat the process.

Water typing is painstaking work. Crew members record the width of the stream, the consistency of its bottom, habitat types, surrounding brush and trees, barriers to fish passage and the amount of wood debris in the water. They catch fish if they can, netting samples, or use an electrical device to stun fish when netting isn't possible.

Basic stream information and water type revisions are compiled and sent to Natural Resources to eventually be incorporated into the official water typing maps. Any group can

submit water typing amendments if they follow Natural Resource's protocol and gather supporting evidence. The amendment process is complex and can take months.

In the meantime, the Fish Conservancy makes all its gathered data and photos available in an interactive map on its website. Visitors can view data and photographs from streams in their area. Details on fish passage barriers and habitat can be used to support restoration projects and local governments can use the information to inform land use decisions.

Glasgow stresses the Fish Conservancy's goal in water typing isn't to push for more regulation, but to make sure existing regulations are applied.

"We can't guarantee it, but getting it onto the map gives it a better chance of being protected," Glasgow said.
Read part 2 of our series in the Aug. 12 edition.

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State receives $28 million federal grant to continue salmon recovery

2219

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board last week announced a $28 million federal grant to continue the state's investment in salmon recovery.

Of the $28 million, $15.5 million will be awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for projects statewide that will restore and protect rivers, streams and estuaries increasing the places that salmon need for spawning, rearing, migrating and feeding.

"We have a very competitive grant process to ensure that the state is investing in the projects that will most benefit salmon recovery," said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers the federal grant and supports the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Grant applications for more than 167 projects were submitted in August, and the board will make final grant awards in December.

Another $8.2 million of

See Salmon, Page 2

2/5

1 of 2

SALMON from Page 1

the federal grant goes to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for hatchery and harvest reform projects. Salmon monitoring projects in the state will receive $3.2 million.

"Commercial and recreational fishing alone support an estimated 16,374 jobs and $540 million in personal income in Washington, according to a 2006 study," Cottingham said. "That doesn't include how valuable salmon are as a cultural icon or what restoration and protection of natural places do for our property values and quality of life."

As Washington's population has grown, its salmon have dwindled. The federal government has listed 18 species of salmon in Washington under the Endangered Species Act since 1991. In the Puget Sound region, only 22 of at least 37 historic Chinook populations remain. Those that remain are at only 10 percent of their historic numbers, with some lower than 1 percent.

"Salmon are vital to Washington's economy and way of life. This funding will put people across the state back to work on projects that local community and scientists agree are high priorities for restoring salmon populations," said Gov. Chris Gregoire of the announcement. "It is a crucial investment in our efforts to restore healthy and abundant salmon populations."

"We want to thank our senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, as well as Congressman Norm Dicks and the other members of our congressional delegation for fighting hard to bring this money to Washington. The governor's gubernatorial colleagues in other states also have been important partners," Cottingham said. "This funding is an important investment in our future. Salmon are an important part of our economy and their recovery is helping everyone from those that depend on salmon for their livelihood and enjoyment to restoration contractors and others involved in restoring healthy salmon runs."

Congress created the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund in 2000 to restore Pacific salmon populations. The fund, along with a state match, is the primary source of funding for salmon recovery in Washington.

In Washington, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund contributions have totaled more than $300 million and have helped remove 249 barriers to fish passage that were limiting upstream access to habitats for fish. This funding source also has helped restore 1,280 miles of habitat along rivers and 3,600 acres of estuary at the mouths of those rivers. It also has helped acquire more than 33,229 acres of crucial salmon habitat.

Salmon restoration projects are estimated to create 1.57 jobs for every $100,000 invested, according to a University of Oregon study. Since 1999, this federal funding and state match have funded more than 1,200 restoration projects estimated to have created more than 3,700 jobs.

The federal Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administers the fund and will split the $80 million award for federal fiscal year 2011 among Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, and California.

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(Mason Co.)
Belfair Herald
(Cir. W. 10,000)

AUG 11 2011

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Skokomish River conservation aims to protect salmon and human safety

With the purchase of two properties of approximately 160 acres near the confluence of the north and south forks of the Skokomish River in Mason County, the Cascade Land Conservancy, Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) have taken an important step toward the long-term protection of critical salmon habitat.

The project area is important to the proper function of the Skokomish River and the fish and people who depend on it. It is a significant habitat site for Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon, summer chum salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout, as well as coho, fall chum and cutthroat trout.

The land conservancy and its partners purchased 131 acres of forested floodplains along the south side of the Skokomish from the Green Diamond Resource company for $262,000. The second property, another 29 acres along both sides of the Skokomish River, was purchased from private landowner Robert Rasmusan for $110,000. Funding for the acquisitions came from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Fund and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program.

"Conserving these properties will make a positive impact on the region's important salmon population and give our partners flexibility in their broader restoration goals in the Hood Canal Basin," said Sam Gibboney, Cascade Land Conservancy Olympic Peninsula conservation director. "HCCC, HCSEG and others in the region have been working for decades to improve the health of the canal and were integral in the success of this project."

The largest source of fresh water for Hood Canal,

See Skokomish on page BH-6

Skokomish

Continued from page BH-5

With the purchase of two properties of approximately 160 acres near the confluence of the north and south forks of the Skokomish River in Mason County, the Cascade Land Conservancy, Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) have taken an important step toward the long-term protection of critical salmon habitat.

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The largest source of fresh water for Hood Canal, the Skokomish River is ecologically important. It is also the most frequently flooded body of water in Washington state, threatening salmon and human well-being. Acquisition of these properties will allow creation of significant off-channel and floodplain habitat beneficial for all salmonid species as well as for flood hazard reduction.

The properties contain the Skokomish River Road, the only transportation access through the valley into working farms and forests above the river. The site, known as the "Dips," is usually the first to flood, closing the road and isolating the community. An ambitious partnership between Mason County, the Skokomish Tribe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently investigating how to decrease flood risk to the road and the people who depend upon it, an effort that will be supported by this conservation project.

View from Steel Bridge

"The HCCC Board of Directors has a vision that humans can both benefit from and coexist sustainably with a healthy Hood Canal," said Richard Brocksmith, HCCC Director for Habitat Programs. "This project is a great example of that vision in that one action can have multiple benefits for both humans and the ecosystem."

Responding to community concerns about water quality and ecological health, the HCCC has been engaged for more than 25 years restoring and protecting the Hood Canal region's environmental and economic health. Like HCCC and other partners, Cascade Land Conservancy is working to create a sustainable economic and environmental future for the region. The conservation of these lands on the Skokomish are part of The Olympic Agenda, the land conservancy's 100-year vision and action plan for the Olympic Peninsula's lands, economy and communities.

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Long Beach, WA
(Pacific Co.)
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AUG 24 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

MIXED FEELINGS ON NEW REFUGE PLAN

2219

By CATE GABLE
Observer correspondent

WILLAPA BAY — Despite the final approval of the 15-year comprehensive plan for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (WNWR), closely following alternative two, plenty of controversy remains. The plan was approved in early August and according to WNWR Director Charlie Stenvall, "The plan is over 1,000 pages long, but I think probably the most critical section is Appendix E — this is where we include and have responded to comments from the public." (The final plan is available online at www.tinyurl.com/3p2w7o6)

The Executive Summary of the plan indicates, "We identified Alternative 2 as our Preferred Alternative, because it will best achieve these benchmarks and allow for public uses as defined by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act."

On the controversial issues of the Bear River dike removal, Stenvall indicated, "We've considered the issues and included all the citations: the science is absolutely crystal clear — tidal restoration is better for water fowl, for geese, for shore birds, and anadromous fish."

The original Bear River dike removal and tidal restoration called for an increase of 749 acres of intertidal flats and salt marsh; instead 621 acres will be restored by removing dikes in the Lewis and Porter Point units. Additionally, to mitigate some concerns about wildlife in the cranberry bogs, the Riekkola Unit will now include 93 acres of short-grass fields to be managed for Canada geese and Roosevelt elk.

Pros and cons

Comments indicate that there are still many who feel the included changes do not adequately take into consideration the public concerns raised. Fred Cook, Long Beach resident, said, "I certainly have some strong opinions about the fact that very little was changed. Obviously no message got across to the powers that be, particularly Mr. Stenvall."

See **REFUGE**, Page A10

REFUGE

Continued from Page A1

"It's a little bit of window dressing and a little bit of divide and conquer. The cranberry growers will be satisfied, and the plan also answers somewhat, the dusky Canada geese concerns."

"But it mostly looks like 'Damn the torpedoes and full speed ahead' to me. The whole plan is beyond my scope of understanding," he added.

Ron Craig, South Bend engineer, said, "The final decision by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services provides about 98 percent of the benefits of estuary restoration for salmon that we were hoping for. Removing the dikes, roads, fish ladders, tide gates, and restoring the 38 tidal channels; and returning the area to its historic conditions."

Commenting on the eventual move of the visitors center to the south bay area, Craig said, "The visitors center will provide an economic boost to the area, which U.S. Fish and Wildlife estimates at 200,000 visitors a year. The nature trail will provide handicap access to an overview of the historic estuary. I'm pleased."

When asked about the timing for the refuge HQ relocation, Stenvall said, "The move will take some time — that would require an appropriation of sufficient size and with the budget cycles that we're talking about now, it's unlikely."

"We're number 18 on the list of wildlife centers for replacement. My prediction on how I see it working — we will work to move forward on things we have identified in the plan. Things will be funding dependent and some we can do without additional funding. Down the line we may say we know a little bit more about it and there might be things we may change as we go forward — the plan is a general guide line about what is the best thing for the resource at this point in time."

Pacific County Commissioner Jon Kaino offered these remarks. "While I have not had the opportunity to read the plan thoroughly as yet, it appears they did make some minor changes to the Riekkola portion of Alternative 2 so that it no longer impacts the county road and neighboring properties, as well as providing for some residual pasture land for geese and elk."

"That said, it seems clear that the overriding public sentiment that the Lewis and Porter dikes should be left in place fell on deaf ears," he continued. "I am extremely disappointed (but not surprised) that the refuge didn't respond to the overwhelming public comments to leave these dikes in place."

Salmon and ducks

Stenvall knows the going could be rough in these weeks following the release of the final plan. "I suspect that the changes that we will make will not really mollify many of the folks who were opposed to parts of the plan."

"But when you look at salt marshes historically around the bay, there used to be over 14,000 acres and now there's less than 6,000 acres — that's a reduction of 60 percent."

"Salt marsh is critical rearing habitat for salmonids, especially chum, which are really having trouble. If you look up and down the West Coast there are 45 restoration and dike removal projects going on — no one is putting in dikes," he said.

"The bottom line for the hunters is that they have a huge expansion in what they're able to fowl hunting dramatically to seven days a week. We're opening areas to elk and deer hunting. There's a lot here that waterfowl hunters get. We averaged 4.5 hunters a day and we have doubled that capacity — for those who duck hunt, there will be two blinds in a tidal situation that have never existed before."

Comments from Appendix E

The WNWR staff solicited comments on the draft plan during a 45-day period starting on Jan. 21. In response to requests from the public for additional time to review the details, the comment period was extended 60 days, ending in March.

The appendix includes more than 150 pages of selected comments from the 213 letters and emails received by the Wildlife Refuge. These are addressed in detail, many with citations and scientific references that either affirm or counter the comments, grouped categorically.

A few selected comments from the "Bear River Duck Hunters" section includes this citizen response. "If this project is approved, I believe the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service should be responsible to develop a like amount of public land that has the access and quality for hunting waterfowl within the boundary of the Willapa NWR."

The WNWR response indicated, "In 2010, the goose hunting program had approximately 18 percent occupancy by approximately 44 individual hunters (119 hunter visits) in the eight blinds in the Riekkola and Tarlatt Units. The waterfowl hunting program had a similar amount of hunters. The final plan has been modified to include three blinds for goose hunting (including one ADA-accessible blind). This should accommodate the users of the blinds and provide a quality hunting experience. Furthermore, two blinds for waterfowl hunting (including one ADA-accessible blind) will create opportunities for those who want to hunt the tides but may not have access to a boat. Boat access to the bay will be through the new car-top boat launch at Dohman Creek, replacing the car-top ramp at Porter Point. The refuge's current boat launch facilities off of Highway 101 will also remain."

"In addition, as new areas are added within the expanded refuge boundary, hunting opportunities will increase. Additional improvements/facilities will be created as needed and as funding opportunities arise."

There were also comments that ran the gamut from "Ban driving on the beach north of Oysterville Rd year round! (Exceptions could be made for clam digs, if necessary)" to "Camping sites on Long Island would be desirable if measures are taken to prevent damage to old-growth forest and other natural areas of greatest importance (those least disturbed by people)."

Many of the comments supported the restoration of tidal marshes. "We likewise support improving of salmon breeding habitat by the restoration of intertidal salt marsh due to the proposed, carefully researched and controlled breaching of existing dikes." And, "Restoring natural processes to the maximum amount of currently diked habitat at the refuge will increase the bay's and ecosystem's resilience to potential sea level rise by allowing the natural processes to transport sediment into subsided areas, allowing full nutrient exchange between various marine and terrestrial systems, and provide improved food web connectivity between bay/salt marsh/freshwater wetland/upland interfaces."

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"Dike removal, restoration of wetlands, intertidal zones, and salt marsh is imperative to maintaining clean water in Willapa Bay and providing resting and feeding habitat to the millions of shorebirds that migrate through the region annually."

And finally, one comment squarely addressing one of the mandates of the refuge — support of salmon recovery: "The potential gains to salmonid populations, particularly chum, which are critically endangered, from the preferred alternative cannot be understated. The current exclusion of these populations from near shore areas has led to dramatic declines in a culturally and economically important fishery. With the restoration of these near shore and estuarine areas, habitat for these fish is greatly expanded, making recovery of these populations possible. Without restoration of these areas, there is serious risk of losing these populations entirely from future development and other human impacts. I encourage you move forward with the preferred alternative for the betterment of all in the region."

'It seems clear that the overriding public sentiment that the Lewis and Porter dikes should be left in place fell on deaf ears.'
Pacific County Commissioner Jon Kaino

Public process found inadequate

After the loud public outcry about the tidal restoration included in the WNWR plan, the primary funding source for the Bear River dike removal, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF Board, commonly pronounced "surfboard") called for an audit of the public engagement process.

The results of the audit — conducted by Brian Abbott, Salmon Section manager; Megan Duffy, GSRO executive coordinator; and Lloyd Moody, lead entity program manager — are included in a "Briefing Memo" to the SRF board signed by director Kaleen Cottingham.

The audit showed deficiencies in two areas: the lead entity and the citizens committee. According to the report "The council originally had a diverse group of 17 participating representatives, thereby meeting the intent of the citizen committee as identified in RCW 77.85.050 1(b) … Council participation decreased over time however. As a result, only four participating members voted on the proposed habitat project list submitted to the board in 2010. This list included the Bear River project."

On the public engagement issues the report stated, "The board's policy direction strongly encourages a public outreach effort that is adequate to gauge public support and/or opposition for proposed habitat projects before they are submitted. In the past, the lead entity relied on the council members to reach out to their associated constituents. In this case, representation was inadequate,

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and members were not given specific direction to contact constituents or stakeholders. Additionally, there was some reliance upon the outreach conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan /Environmental Impact Statement because the Bear River Estuary project was part of one alternative being considered. Such reliance does not meet the intent of the board policy."

Mooty said, "Frankly the Pacific County folks were very straight forward in recognizing that they had taken their eye off the ball a little bit and they have been working hard to make needed corrections in the public process." The county officials' responses to the audit report were swift. As Mooty indicated, "They're working hard to clean up their lead entity process and make it compliant."

"In smaller areas it's difficult to put together these kinds of groups when it's a volunteer effort and it grinds on — it's time consuming and it takes a lot of focus and attention and coming up to speed on a lot of issues."

Corrective action

In response to these inadequacies, Mike Johnson, lead entity coordinator for Water Resource Inventory Area #24 (the Willapa Bay region), admits that the engagement with the citizens' committee fell dormant over time. "Most of the projects were culvert work — mostly no-brainers — so the importance of the committee dwindled."

"We see this [audit] as a wake-up call to create a more full and robust public engagement process. This gave us an opportunity to invigorate our community process," Johnson said.

Kaino also commented, "regarding the SRF Board audit, they made some recommendations regarding our process that we have implemented. First, the original citizens committee (enacted about 12 years ago) was the Willapa Bay Water Resources Coordinating Council, which was already in place at the time but was not initially formed for the purpose of salmon enhancement."

"While it had a wide variety of members representing many different industries and interest groups," he continued, "membership and participation had declined significantly over the years. Barely half the positions were actually filled and only three or four members were truly active. It was recommended that a citizens committee specific to SRF Board projects be formed and with the public interest created from the Refuge proposal we had more than enough applicants. We have appointed that group and they are participating in the current ranking process."

"The audit also suggested that our practice of requiring county commissioner approval of the citizen committee's rankings was not preferred and that the committee's rankings should go directly to the SRF Board," Kaino added. "We amended the process to include this recommendation as well, but will still require a 'letter of no objection' from the county commissioners on those projects that include property acquisition as those proposals have impacts on county tax revenues. Several other regions including the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board include this requirement on acquisition projects."

Johnson indicated that announcements were put in the newspaper and sent out by email to enlist representatives from a broader base of community organizations. A list of current serving members of the citizens committee is available from the Pacific County Commissioners' office.

Next steps

The SRF Board takes up the funding issue at there next regularly scheduled meeting in Ellensburg on Aug. 31. (Johnson noted that these meetings are prescheduled and rotate around the state in response to the idea that this meeting was deliberately schedule far from our region.)

Craig indicated that many of the new members "are the same leaders who are against this project which has effectively blocked us from re-submitting this project again or others in Bear River." Johnson said there was a tacit understanding that if the Bear River project needed to go back through the public process, it would probably not make it. All members on all sides of the intertidal marshes issue seemed to be discouraged and worn down by the arguments.

Cottingham, the SRF Board director, indicated that the funds had been set-aside pending the results of the audit. When reached by phone last Friday she said, "I understand that the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife is going to pull this project."

However, Johnson indicated that is not necessarily the case. "We are waiting to see what the SRF Board will decide at the next meeting."

The Bear River Estuary project held in abeyance a total of $402,402. According to their brief, "Existing board policy would allow the lead entity to reassign the funds to an alternate on its 2010 project list within a year of the original funding date. This would require the Pacific County Lead Entity to determine whether or not the funds should be used for an alternate project before December 2011. If the alternate were not funded, the funds would go back to the overall board funding for distribution in the 2011 grant round."

The 2010 Pacific County project list identified one alternate, the Ellsworth Creek Restoration project, with a funding request for around $100,000. Johnson said that this project, "is not controversial. It's a good project. It's a Nature Conservancy (TNC) Project to take out a culvert in the Ellsworth Creek restoration area."

"TNC has taken out all adjacent stream roadways and put them on ridge tops and this culvert removal will open up one mile of salmon habitat."

Johnson indicated that he and the commissioners will be preparing a letter to send to the SRF Board prior to the next meeting to indicate the Pacific County preference on what to do with the set-aside funds, "but the decision is still theirs. The original funds could get set aside for this Ellsworth project, or for something else in our region or anywhere on the coast. Or the money could go back into the state's general fund."

"We can ask for what we want, but they make the decision," he said.

As Mooty, staff in the governor's salmon recovery office, note, "Land Acquisition or dike breeching can be controversial sometimes because people have to understand what the implications are. Salmon recovery is a long-term process and nobody said it would be easy."

"It took us a long time to get into the problem we're in with salmon recovery and it's going to take a long time to turn it around," he added. 2219

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COAST CHRONICLES

BY CATE GABLE

Finding the new normal

The Arab Spring has become the Arab Autumn with mixed results. Egyptian protesters took over Tahrir Square again last week, and it appears Salafist Muslims are fomenting sectarian violence.

Libya's end game is uncertain because Qaddafi made sure no civic culture could exist during his 42 years of rule. Syria — a slow-motion massacre — is another wild card.

(For a nifty Arab timeline, see http://tinyurl.com/68tu9vr)

When a catalyst sparks change and the status quo is upset, the system is thrown into a state of chaos. The collapse of the norm opens a space for something new, but what that will be is not clear until a new pattern emerges.

The U.S. debt crisis revealed a profound dysfunctionality in our democracy; even Fed Chair Ben Bernanke chastised Congress. And, yes, I think it's official — we have a plutocracy, a society ruled by its wealthiest members. You need money to get into office; lobbyists (AKA booted out politicians) write our policies; and corporations now with "personhood" can throw money at their preferred candidates. It's a closed-loop system.

No one likes change, yet change is the only constant. In climate, politics, the environment, or our own bodies — systems flex as much as possible; but as the pace of change increases, they break, starting a cycle of creative destruction that forces the formation of a new norm. In the world, the country, the state, the county, our Peninsula — we are all experiencing growing pains.

Even some of our wealthiest citizens have begun to protest this twisted America. Last week Warren Buffet wrote an editorial saying, "quit coddling us rich folks — yes, you can tax us more."

We voters are watching from the sidelines crying, "Throw the bums out."

County needs new direction

In Pacific County, we need forward-looking leadership and reformed institutions. The good-old-boy network is fraying around the edges, something apparent to those who are politically awake.

Our 10-year comprehensive plan was taken to court by Futurewise to correct state-mandated urban growth boundaries. The plan does not include adequate tsunami provisions; or a quantitative assessment of our fresh water capacity.

PUD is behind the eight ball in its support of early adopters of alternative energy technologies: grey water reuse, wind and solar, composting toilets. Our community development office wants to put new restrictions on greenhouses just as food security issues catalyze more edible gardening. We've dilly-dallied unconscionably in bringing a murderer to trial.

Four years ago, our planning commission approved a building plan put forward by Matt Doney, with inadequate platting. Again, an out-of-county agency, the Washington Shoreline Management body, slapped their hands, saying, "Nope, even you folks at the end of the world must follow proper procedures."

Both the proposed National Heritage Area (which could have increased tourism) and the Bear River dike removal (which would begin reversing lost salt marshes), were controverted by a relatively small group of citizens in the face of overwhelming support, in the former case, and clear science supporting the latter.

Our public process for project review was found by Salmon Recovery Board auditors to be non-compliant. Whether we have representation on the new committee that mirrors the

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values of our community is yet to be seen.

We've spoken before about the topsy-turvy state of county government. The majority of tax revenues are generated from the north end of the Peninsula; yet our commissioner and school board structures put more weight on the east side of the Bay.

We have only two municipalities on the Peninsula — Long Beach and Ilwaco. Ideas about incorporating the north end have been floated; but, "Heaven forfend," say northenders about the possibility of joining Klipsan, Ocean Park, Surfside and "the village."

Change is the only constant

No one likes change, yet change is the only constant. In climate, politics, the environment, or our own bodies — systems flex as much as possible; but as the pace of change increases, they break, starting a cycle of creative destruction that forces the formation of a new norm.

In the world, the country, the state, the county, our Peninsula — we are all experiencing growing pains. Some call it "end times," some call it the dawning of Aquarius, some just say — "something needs fixing."

The Gable family is adjusting to a new norm. Health developments took us back into the chemo clinic this week. We were there six years ago and what I noticed is that every chair was filled this time around. I asked the nurses about it. "Yes, unfortunately we're seeing more people now than ever before."

Young and old, every ethnicity was represented in the chemo "salon," as the nurses call it. There was a genuine camaraderie — at first glance, home-made cookies, brownies and coffee gave it the air of a church get-together. But a closer look added an unnerving layer of sci-fi. Families were gathered around individuals with "ports" implanted in their chests, each with a drip line and a hanging bag of chemicals. Most patients had bald heads, clutched a blanket and were tipped back in enormous loungers drowsing.

After hours, the nurses grumbled about their battles with Humana and other insurance providers to get patients the medications they need.

Fork in the road

Humans make do. When things shift gradually, we adapt. But when the pace of change produces dramatic impacts within a generation, that's when we notice and complain.

Conservatives want to counter this change by returning to a cultural framework that existed decades ago. To a time when gay marriage wasn't even a concept, as opposed to being legal in seven states. (In two additional states, gay couples can enter civil unions and in six others can register as domestic partners.) To a time when abortions were unthinkable and/or difficult to get. To a time when Caucasian Christians were the majority of voters in our country. To smaller government.

Liberals and progressives are responding to change by pressing an agenda of acceptance for current cultural shifts — a granting of immigrant normalization, acceptance of a range of religious points of view and family structures, and a scientific understanding of evolution and climate disruption. They advocate for broad-based governmental healthcare, environmental laws, and corporate monitoring.

These approaches pull against each other. Which way will we go?

Train when flashing

There's already great stuff happening that will catalyze the new normal. The farmer's market; the "Peninsula Innovators" (ask to join the Facebook page); Jim and Vera Karnofski's biochar garden.

Heather Richardson, as part of Peninsula Clay Artists, supervised the creation of a mural now installed at the Artisan in Ilwaco. Donna Rew suggested, "Why don't we make this the standard in our community. It would give us a real boost."

Case in point: the little town of Toppenish has become a destination by creating new painted murals annually. Nearly every building tells a story; the main street is an inviting combination of old and new.

As you approach the town, you notice a sign reading, "Train when flashing." It sounds like a command to me.

I'd say the lights are flashing now. Are we going to re-train ourselves to respond to this new environment or wait until the train hits us?

The News Tribune

Webinar today to cover programs for funding

LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2011 11:06 AM (PDT)

OLYMPIA -- Six state agencies will offer an online workshop at 1:30 p.m. today to explain what grants and loans are available in the next two years.

The Natural Resources Grants and Loans Webinar will feature more than 45 funding programs ranging from grants to build boat launches, to loans for road projects, to grants to improve water quality.

"This is the first time that these state agencies have come together to provide this kind of workshop," said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Recreation and Conservation Office, which is coordinating the webinar. "Having it online means that people from around the state can get the information without having to make expensive travel arrangements."

The webinar is one result of Governor Chris Gregoire's initiative to reduce duplication in natural resource agencies.

Register at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/435631369.

Grants will be featured in the following nine categories: Conservation and restoration; farmland preservation; invasive species; environmental awareness, outreach and stewardship; clean air; water, sewer and transportation infrastructure; planning; waste management and toxics control; and recreation

For more information and to see the webinar after today, go to www.rco.wa.gov/webinar.shtml.

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New and Improved Barlow Bay

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The Friends of the San Juans last week helped to enhance habitat for spawning forage fish along the beach at Barlow Bay, at the south end of Lopez Island.

Boulders used for road protection projects had fallen onto the middle and upper portions of the beach over the years, degrading habitat at one of only nine known Pacific sand lance spawning sites in San Juan County. Sand lance, which lay their eggs on sandy upper beaches, are a key food item for various fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. "The Friends of the San Juans' habitat restoration project was a win win for everyone," said San Olson, a Friends of San Juans' board member and neighborhood resident.

"While the primary objective was to enhance critical spawning habitat and support marine food webs, we were also able to use the rocks removed from the beach to fill gaps and improve protection along the road."

San Juan County Public Works, Barlow Bay shoreline property owners and the Salmon Point Community provided support for the restoration project, and the Washington State Salmon Recovery Board provided funding.

For more info, www.sanjuans.org.

See photos online at www.islandsweekly.com.

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Guest Column

2219

Local shoreline efforts help forage fish, eelgrass and salmon

Since 2009, Friends of San Juan has worked to improve island shorelines

By Tina Whitman

Shoreline modification, especially hard armoring, has been identified as a top threat to marine ecosystem recovery in San Juan County by the San Juan County Marine Stewardship and Salmon Recovery Plans.

Over time, bulkheads and shoreline roads can result in a loss of the very feature that attracted people in the first place, the beach. Forage fish, such as surf smelt and Pacific sand lance, require the upper beach to spawn and incubate their eggs. These small fish are an essential part of the food web, supporting salmon, ling cod, rockfish, seabirds and marina mammals.

The majority of shoreline development activity in San Juan County occurs through single-family development and individual shoreline alterations. The magnitude of these impacts may only become evident cumulatively over time.

In 2009, Friends of the San Juans was awarded grant funding through the Washington state Salmon Recovery Board to conduct a boat-based survey of shoreline modifications. This was the first comprehensive inventory of its kind for San Juan County.

Just under 4,000 shoreline modifications were mapped, photographed and described, including: 710 armored beaches (bulkheads and roads); 472 docks; 32 groins; 55 marine railways; 70 improved boat ramps; 425 pilings (not associated with docks or marinas); 50 marinas/jetties/breakwaters; 1,914 mooring buoys or floats; and 191 "other" on-beach structures.

Information on structure size, material, tidal elevation and condition were recorded where relevant to inform understanding of potential habitat impacts, and to support the identification and prioritization of restoration opportunities.

Contributed photo

Friends' Tina Whitman and son.

Potential restoration opportunities for shoreline armoring, docks and floats were identified and prioritized using priority habitats and species, geomorphic shoretype and details of the modification itself, such as size, tidal elevation, material and condition. Opportunities to reduce the impacts of existing structures over time, through design upgrades during maintenance or replacement activities were also identified.

Project results are informing local salmon recovery planning efforts and the Shoreline Master Program update.

Friends is also working with interested landowners, on a voluntary basis, to explore opportunities to remove, relocate or upgrade derelict or unnecessary beach structures in priority areas. To date, Friends has improved habitat by helping interested landowners remove tide gates, creosote pilings, and a concrete and creosote 'shuffleboard court'; by restacking fallen rock from forage fish spawning habitats along public and private road right of ways; and through beach nourishment to restore sand and fine gravel to a degraded beach.

We have also helped property owners remove outdated mooring buoys and install new buoys outside of eelgrass; and remove unwanted derelict floats.

These projects benefit people and wildlife by providing technical and financial assistance to property owners, and improving habitat for forage fish, eelgrass, and outmigrating juvenile salmon.

For more information on Friends shoreline restoration projects, or if you are interested in talking about opportunities to improve shoreline habitat at your property, please contact Friends of the San Juans, at 360-378-2319.

— Tina Whitman is the Science Director of Friends of the San Juans. She resides with her husband and son on Orcas Island.

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Funding board to audit habitat projects

Group says Wiley Slough, Fornsby Creek projects have left farmers' fields wetter than before

By WHITNEY PIPKIN
Staff Writer

SKAGIT COUNTY — A state agency that funded two Skagit County projects aimed at restoring salmon habitat agreed this week to review them both, after some farmers near the sites reported frequent floods in their fields and saltwater intrusion.

The projects at Wiley Slough and at Fornsby Creek are the first of many planned in the Skagit River delta that involve moving dikes and drainage infrastructure to increase estuary habitat for the endangered chinook salmon. An agreement between tribes, farmers and government agencies has laid out a plan to convert 2,700 acres of farmland into salmon habitat over the next 30 years.

Noting that these first projects in many ways set the tone for those that are to come, a group representing local farmers has asked that they be audited and corrected to meet original expectations.

A letter from the Western Washington Agricultural Association to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board details the farmers' concerns. It says failures of new drainage systems appear to have caused crop losses and saltwater intrusion at nearby farms instead of improving drainage as promised.

See AUDIT, Page A6

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Audit

Continued from Page A1

The projects

The Fornsby Creek project started almost four years ago as a sort of pilot project on Swinomish Indian Tribal Community lands along the Swinomish Channel. A farmer who grows potatoes and other crops on some 600 acres near the site has experienced crop losses and saltwater intrusion since the project began, the agricultural association said.

The project at Wiley Slough converted public land owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife into 157 acres of expanded fish habitat on the southeast corner of Fir Island. A dike was moved further inland and a new tidegate system was installed. Tidegates have been used by farmers for decades to keep saltwater off farmland while allowing fresh water to drain from fields.

Mike Shelby, executive director of the ag association, said one of the premises of these restoration projects is that the drainage for nearby farmland would not be compromised. If anything, it would be improved.

The letter sent to the funding board, signed by association President Curtis Johnson, said that has not been the case with these two projects.

"This project has, in fact, severely compromised drainage function in the area," Johnson said, referring to Wiley Slough. "Many acres and a number of landowners are affected in their ability to farm and are financially impacted by this problem."

The review

Kaleen Cottingham, director of the state Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers funds to the salmon board, responded to the ag group with a letter Thursday. It said her department has agreed to conduct an independent review of the design and construction of the two projects "to maintain the highest level of oversight of our grant recipients and project implementation."

The Skagit River System Cooperative has led in the engineering and construction of both projects but no longer appears to be in a lead role at either. Steve Hinton, who managed the project for SRSC, said over the phone on Friday that the best contact for an update on the project is now Fish and Wildlife.

The status of work at Fornsby Creek has been difficult to follow because of its location on tribal lands. Shelby said he believes the tribe's planning department is working directly at the site to correct some issues.

Fish and Wildlife is seeking $80,000 to install a permanent pump to keep water off the fields during the rainy season at Wiley Slough. Work is also being done at the new tidegate, which failed after it was first completed almost two years ago and still is not working properly.

Russell Link, a wildlife program manager with Fish and Wildlife who is overseeing some of the follow-up work at Wiley Slough, said the project team hopes to have both the pump and the tidegate work completed by the fall, but he's not yet sure if the independent review will affect this process.

"We're not sure really what our next steps are at this point," he said.

Meanwhile, one other restoration project on 60 acres at Fisher Slough is scheduled to be completed this fall. Also, Fish and Wildlife is working on plans for another Fir Island restoration project involving public land that's currently used for farmland and bird habitat.

Getting a quick fix

As part of the agreement to convert farmland to fish habitat, farmers get assurance that permits to repair or replace tidegates will be approved quickly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Previously, the permitting process could take as long as two years, leaving farmers with broken drainage systems in the meantime. The new deal speeds up the process to a matter of weeks.

One of the drainage districts is expected to get the first new tidegate under this accelerated program next week, but farming advocates are still waiting on the permits to come through.

Shelby said he got word Friday that the permits were one step closer to coming in. If they don't get them by the middle of next week, the district will miss a key low-tide window for repairing the system and could have to wait until mid-September.

"I'm trying to be reasonable, because we've gone from a two-year process to theoretically a two-week process," Shelby said. "Well, we're a little over two weeks, but I think everyone that's involved in it is being very careful to make sure we've done it all right."

■ Whitney Pipkin can be reached at 360-416-2112 or wpipkin@skagitpublishing.com. Follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/biz_svh.

2/2

Stanwood, WA
(Snohomish Co.)
Stanwood Camano
News
(Cir. W. 18,200)

SEP 27 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Proposal for salmon habitat restoration submitted to state

2219

By JEREMIAH O'HAGAN
Staff Reporter

Skagit River System Cooperative's (SRSC) proposal for salmon habitat restoration at Camano Island State Park has been submitted to Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), according to Chris Luerkens, Island County's watershed project manager and salmon recovery lead entity coordinator.

An RCO panel will review the technical merits of the project for completeness and validity, Luerkens said, as well as determining that it meets the requirements of the Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board.

If it holds up and the review panel decides the project is a good use of funds, it may provide a "funding recommendation," Luerkens said.

Or, in layman's terms: the project has a few more layers of checks and balances to go through before anyone knows for sure whether it will move forward and become a reality.

Luerkens said the review panel has asked SRSC to respond to the public concerns and comments that have been voiced about the project, and are awaiting its response. After it receives answers, the panel will finish reviewing the project proposal.

By late October, Luerkens said, the panel should have a draft report completed. The final report is due out in November, and will be made available to the public, with directions for its input and comments.

In early December, the report and the panel's recommendation, either for or against the project, will be presented to the SRF Board at a public meeting.

"There will be time set aside specifically for public comments at the meeting," Luerkens said.

For more information, contact Luerkens at 629-4522 ext. 7810, or e-mail chrisl@co.island.wa.us.

Staff Reporter Jeremiah O'Hagan: 629-8066 ext. 125 or ohagan@scnews.com.

Stanwood, WA
(Snohomish Co.)
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AUG 0 9 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Salmon versus sentiment

Controversy about the state park's future

2219

By JEREMIAH O'HAGAN
Staff Reporter

Island County Sheriff Mark Brown only had to intervene once at Island County's Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting on Thursday, when Mark Spencer called WRAC member Julius Budos a "screaming liberal."

Spencer, a Camano Island resident concerned about the future of the state park, had coordinated a protest, or at least a show of force, at the WRAC meeting. The committee was voting to pass along a list of proposed projects to the county's Salmon Recovery Funding Board, for possible funding. One of those projects was the Skagit River System Cooperative's (SRSC) proposal for salmon habitat restoration at Camano Island State Park.

Spencer's group wasn't having any of it, arguing that the project will destroy the state park and ruin recreational opportunities.

"Let's keep it civil," Brown said, after the outburst.

Brown noted the group had "made some good points" and that everyone was "doing a good job," up to that point.

"This is what the political process is all about," he said.

Larry Bach, WRAC co-chair, had opened the meeting by explaining the committee's part in that process.

Each year, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) solicits project proposals for the county's salmon recovery plan, which was adopted in 2005. This year, four groups responded with projects. Once those proposals were recieved, they were scored and ranked by the Salmon Technical Advisory Group and passed along to WRAC. The state park project is ranked number two.

WRAC reviews the rank, double-checks that each project fits the requirements and mission of the salmon recovery plan, and sends a letter of approval to the SRFB.

That's it.

■ SEE **PARK**, PAGE A8

1 of 2

Park

■ FROM PAGE A1

"We are not here to defend the projects," Bach said.

He made it clear that the WRAC, as an advisory group compiled entirely of citizen volunteers, is not sponsoring or funding projects, or even necessarily recommending them. It is simply agreeing that they fit the recovery plan's vision.

"The SRFB can throw out any one (project) they want, and fund or not fund as it sees fit," Bach said.

One of those projects was SRSC's proposal to restore the low center area of Camano Island State Park to a pocket estuary. Spencer's group was adamant that the project wasn't a restoration, but the creation of something that never existed.

Spencer held up a graphic that showed a "map" of the flooded park at high tide.

"Is this a fair representation of what the park will look like?" he asked.

Steve Hinton, with SRSC, said, "No."

"Can you show me one?" Spencer asked, explaining that the graphic came from SRSC's feasibility assessment.

Hinton said the project was still in the feasibility stage, and that the graphic wasn't a design. If the project is funded, he said, then it will go through the process of public input, design and feedback.

After the meeting, Hinton said the graphic was the "back of the envelope drawing" created to portray the project's concept.

At this point, Hinton said, his group was seeking a grant only for the "feasibility to design" stage of the project, which would involve hydrology and geomorphology studies, as well as looking at infrastructure and design possibilities.

"It's a fairly involved public process," Hinton said, and includes finding "areas of consensus" within public opinion, as well as "hot spots."

For WRAC member John Luechauer, the whole thing is a hot spot.

"Over the years," he said, "WRAC has been involved in many restoration projects, with the public's support. Do you want to spend this money, or save it for a project that is less controversial?"

Bach noted, again, that WRAC wasn't spending any money.

"All we're doing is sending these projects on to the funding board," he said.

Ralph Ferguson and Dale Tyler, in Spencer's group, argued that WRAC was sending the project along under false pretenses, namely, that the area had at one time been an estuary. Ferguson gave a presentation on their own findings, including archived photos and maps.

Tyler pointed out that much of SRSC's data had been compiled by a scientist named Eric Beamer, and Tyler claimed the studies had not been peer reviewed.

"Eric Beamer is well-regarded within the scientific community in this state, with regards to salmon recovery," Bach said.

He also said WRAC had put "an extensive amount of work into reviewing these projects," and that "none of these arguments are new."

One WRAC member suggested that soil samples be taken from the areas in question.

"We've got a lot of talk about looking at old maps," he said, "but it's all there in the sedimentary record."

Bach asked for and received a motion and a second to approve the letter to the funding board. Luechauer cast the only dissenting vote.

Another member voted in favor, but suggested that language referring to "permitting" be removed from the project.

"WRAC approves the letter," Bach noted. "John (Luechauer) may write a letter of dissent, to be included with the submittal the Salmon Recovery Funding Board."

After the meeting, SRSC representatives offered a signup sheet so concerned residents could receive updates of the proposal's status and what the next steps are.

Tyler and Ferguson offered a signup, too.

WRAC's letter is due to the funding board this week.

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OCT 04 2011

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MILL CREEK 2219

Mill Creek's strategic plan is available for pubic review

The initial draft of the City of Mill Creek's strategic plan is currently available for public review and comment on the city's website, www.cityofmillcreek.com. The document includes draft goals and objectives, fiscal focus, strategic policies, and an action plan that came out of the city's recent strategic planning process.

As a follow up to the release of the draft, the city will host a strategic plan open house on Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 15728 Main St. The open house will be an opportunity to learn more about the city's strategic planning process, to review the draft document, and to provide your thoughts to the mayor, city council members and city staff.

To submit comments on the draft or for more information, contact Camille Chriest at camillec@cityofmillcreek.com or (425) 921-5726. To find out more about the strategic planning process, visit www.millcreek-plan.org.

Snohomish County completes creek restoration

Snohomish County's Surface Water Management Division recently completed a grant-funded creek restoration along North Creek at 196th Street and Bothell-Everett Highway in Mill Creek.

The project spans the Clearwater School and Clearwater Commons properties and encompasses 1,500 linear feet of creek and 4 acres of property. Side channels were created, log jams were built, and floodplains were lowered to allow floodwaters to disperse. These enhancements were designed to create and enhance habitat for salmon. In addition, about 9,000 native trees and shrubs will be planted this fall and winter on the properties.

The project was made possible by grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. Volunteer hours and some native plant donations came from the Clearwater School and Clearwater Commons, with matching funds provided by Snohomish County Surface Water Management.

For information on the project, contact Snohomish County's Surface Water Management Division at (425) 388-3464.

City government

The City Council meets on the first, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Mill Creek City Hall, located at 15728 Main St.

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Published: Thursday, September 1, 2011

<< Previous 1 of 2 Next >>

Business Briefs

SCBJ staff reports

EvCC to break ground on nursing building

EVERETT — Everett Community College will celebrate the start of construction on its new Nursing and Health Sciences building with a groundbreaking ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at 930 N. Broadway.

The three-story, $37.5 million facility will be home to the college's nursing, medical assisting and phlebotomy programs and other health sciences training. The building will also include room for the Providence Everett Healthcare Clinic.

"The new Nursing and Health Sciences building strengthens the college's ability to train the next generation of health care professionals for in-demand jobs caring for patients in our community," said EvCC President David Beyer.

The new building will triple the amount of lab space for health sciences programs and include new technology to train health-care professionals, such as the clinical simulation lab.

To make way for the Nursing and Health Sciences Building, EvCC will demolish the Royal Motor Inn and Frasier's Sports Bar & Grill on Broadway this fall.

Contributed photo
(click to enlarge)
Everett Public Schools Foundation President Dan Gunderson (second from left) and incoming president Claudia McClain (center) accept a check for $10,620 from Union Bank Market President Ron Heller (second from right) and Everett AquaSox pitchers Jordan Shipers (left) and Bennett Whitmore (right). As part of Union Bank's Strikeouts for Schools program, the bank set aside for the foundation $20 for every strikeout recorded this season by Everett AquaSox pitchers.

ADVERTISEMENT

State to offer online workshop about natural resources grants

OLYMPIA – Six state agencies will offer an online workshop at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 8 to explain what grants and loans are available in the next two years.

The natural resources grants and loans webinar will feature more than 45 funding programs covering grants for boat launches, road projects and improved water quality.

"This is the first time that these state agencies have come together to provide this kind of workshop," said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Recreation and Conservation Office, which is coordinating the webinar.

The webinar is one result of Governor Chris Gregoire's initiative to reduce duplication in natural resource agencies.

Register at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/435631369.

For more information and to see the Webinar after Sept. 8, go to www.rco.wa.gov/webinar.shtml.

$12 million in grants for state's airports

ARLINGTON– Nearly $12 million in federal, state and local funds have been granted to maintain pavement, improve safety and enhance security at 26 Washington airports.

About 67 percent of the funding for the 32 airport improvement projects are focused on airport pavement.

The state Department of Transportation contributed $1.1 million through its Airport Aid Grant Program, and used $433,290 in state funds to leverage more than $9 million in federal grants.

DOT's airport grant program is funded by an 11-cent fee on aviation fuel and a portion of the state aircraft registration fees.

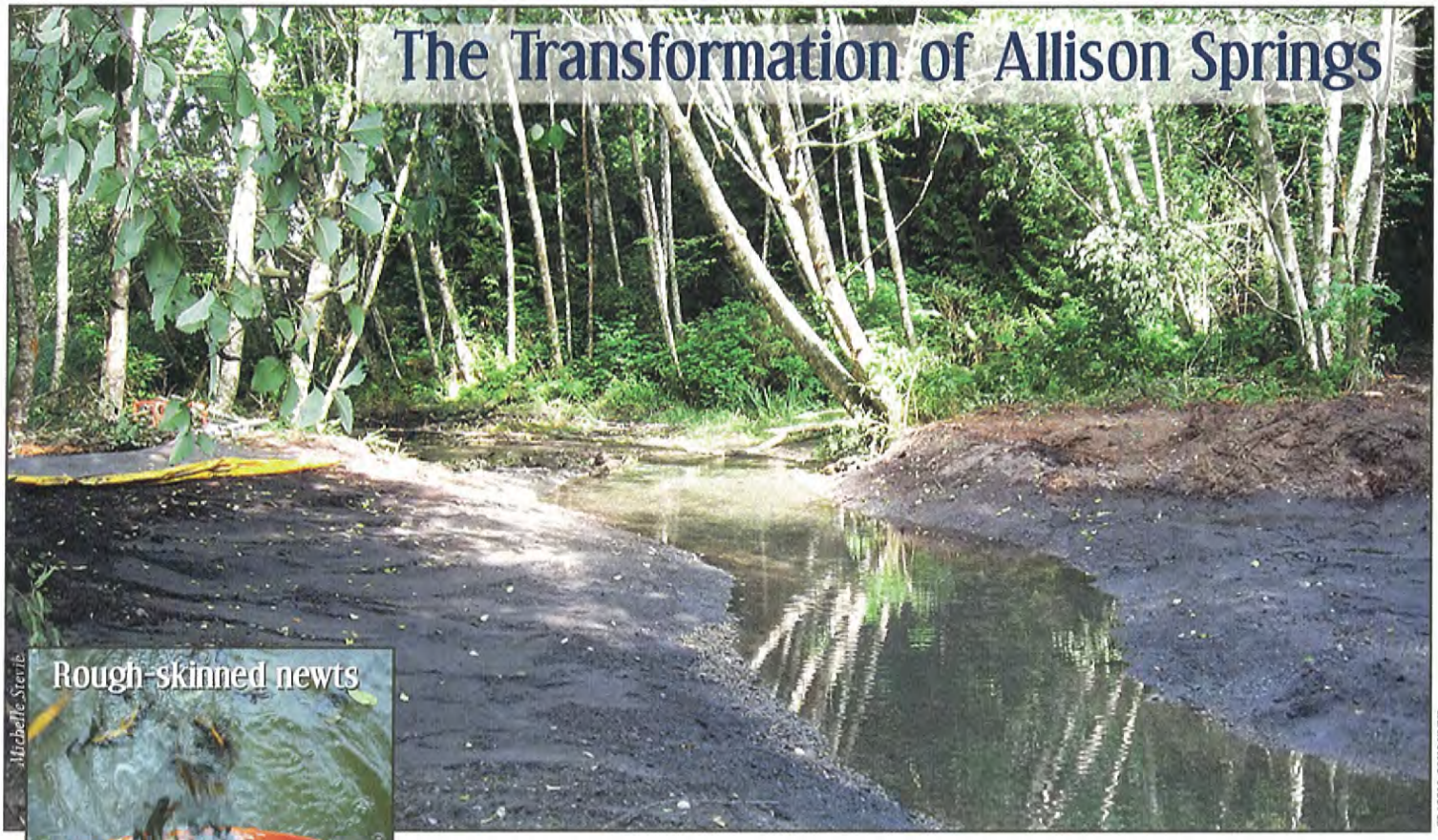
This is the first round of Airport Aid grants awarded during the 2011-2013 biennium. DOT anticipates awarding the next round of grants in spring 2012.

CAPITOL LAND TRUST

Newsletter
Issue 53, Fall 2011

Furthering collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands

The Transformation of Allison Springs



Laurence Reeves

Rough-skinned newts

Michelle Stevie

Capitol Land Trust Conservation Project Manager Laurence Reeves never imagined that "newt-wrangling" would be part of his job description. But late this summer he found himself among a group of people from the City of Olympia, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, traipsing around catching rough-skinned newts.

The newts were thriving in several artificial ponds that needed to be removed as part of a large-scale restoration project. Owned by the City of Olympia, the Allison Springs property provides drinking water for many of Olympia's residents. The area is located at the southern end of Eld Inlet and is surrounded by six miles of marine shorelines previously conserved by Capitol Land Trust. Thanks to funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Ecology, the property is undergoing a profound transformation. Relocating hundreds of newts was one small but fun step in this Capitol Land Trust restoration project.

Together with the City of Olympia, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG), People for Puget Sound and many other partners, Capitol

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Photographs on front cover: Great Blue Heron and Seagull with Starfish by Kim Merriman

Allison Springs continued from page 1

City of Olympia

Newt Wrangling at Allison Springs

Land Trust is restoring estuarine and shoreline function in this strategic complex of shorelines and tide flats, salt marsh, forested freshwater tributaries and springs.

The artificial ponds and other manmade structures, including buildings, culverts, dams, tide gates and weirs, disrupted the natural functioning of the estuary. Fresh spring water couldn't feed the wetlands and flow freely into Puget Sound, fish passage was blocked, and natural tidal exchange processes were impeded.

SPSSEG project manager Brian Combs says, "Our primary objective was to remove the artificial ponds, culverts and fill on the site to enhance the interaction between the springs and the bay. Throughout the process we wanted to minimize disturbance for the wildlife already living there and relocating the newts was part of this effort."

Instead of draining the ponds and leaving the newts to fend for themselves, Brian called on Marc Hayes, an amphibian expert with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, for help. On Marc's recommendation, project partners developed a plan to rescue the newts and release them into nearby appropriate habitat.

Marc finds rough-skinned newts particularly interesting because, among other things, they are so incredibly toxic. "They have one of the most potent vertebrate toxins known," he says. With few natural predators, they may live as long as 20 years. The bright orange underbelly is nature's way of saying "stay away!" See page three for more details on these fascinating yet poisonous creatures.

The initial attempt to collect the newts didn't go as planned. "When we got to the ponds," recalls Laurence, "the sluice boards in the dam had already been removed and water was streaming out. But there wasn't a newt in sight as we waded in with nets and buckets. We were beginning to wonder if someone had tipped them off and they had already left. However, as the pond drained they started coming up out of the mud en masse. I was getting 2-3 newts in one scoop. We would clear the entire pond bottom of newts, and within 5 minutes there would be 30-40 more crawling up out of the mud."

continued on page 3

Allison Springs continued from page 2

In all, the Great Salamander Snag of 2011 netted more than 700 rough-skinned newts. "All of us newt wranglers agreed it was nice to get out of the office to do something we used to enjoy so much as kids... catching salamanders," says Laurence.

Now that the ponds have been drained and artificial structures removed, water is flowing back into Puget Sound unimpeded. Some re-contouring has taken place to mimic the natural stream flow. Still to be done is reforesting the shoreline, adding large woody debris, and removing invasive plants. You can participate! See our Calendar of Events on page 11 for dates and times of work parties.

While the newts might be wondering what happened to their old home, a host of other wildlife—including five species of salmon—will be delighted at the changes. Perhaps the happiest benefactor will be the significant Eld Inlet chum run that returns each fall to spawn in McLane Creek. The Allison Springs restoration project will provide vital habitat in spring for young smolts that spend time in the estuary feeding, growing and preparing to migrate to the Pacific Ocean, and for adult salmon waiting in the estuary for high water in the fall so they can swim upstream and spawn.

Ultimately, the Allison Springs restoration project will restore important natural estuarine, near-shore and wetland functions. This project adds to Capitol Land Trust's ongoing conservation work on lower Eld Inlet. More than six miles of estuarine and coastal habitat adjacent to the site has already been conserved. Olympia Mayor Doug Mah says, "This project is another example of Capitol Land Trust working in partnership with the City. Together, we are better able to leverage resources that restore and protect important ecosystems." ⌘

Thank You Project Partners:

City of Olympia, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, People for Puget Sound, US Fish & Wildlife Service, WA Dept. of Ecology, Waterfall Engineering, Adesa, Carpenter Drilling

Rough-skinned Newts

Brian Combs

The rough-skinned newt (*Taricha granulosa*) is an orange-bellied, warty skinned salamander found throughout the west coast. It may come as a surprise that this cute, seemingly innocent critter can kill you. Members of the western newt genus *Taricha* all posses a neurotoxin in their skin called tetrodotoxin (TTX) which is hundreds of times deadlier than cyanide. It is also the main ingredient of "zombie powder" and is used in Vodoo rituals because it causes paralysis in low doses. The toxin is produced by symbiotic bacteria that live inside the newts. The newts must be ingested for the toxin to be effective but if an adult human swallowed a rough-skinned newt it could kill him or her. Other organisms that utilize TTX include pufferfish, harlequin frogs (*Atelopus*), blue-ringed octopi, and eastern newts (*Notophthalmus*).

As toxic as western newts are, there is an animal that can eat them and survive. Populations of the common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) found within the ranges of western newts have co-evolved to prey on the newts. The snakes have evolved specialized receptors on their neurons that block TTX from attaching, meaning the snakes are resistant to the toxin. Caddisfly larvae may also be resistant to TTX. Female western newts cover their eggs in TTX to stop aquatic insects and other predators from eating them. However, caddisfly larvae have been observed feeding on the eggs suggesting that they may be resistant.

So the next time you're out for a hike and pick up a rough-skinned newt crossing the trail remember to wash your hands before dinner! ⌘

Sara Viernum is a herpetologist with a fondness for amphibians, reptiles and other creepy crawlies. Visit her blog at www.wanderingherpetologist.com.

Coralroot Orchid: Beautiful & Unusual Parasitic Plant

By Guy Maguire

Last spring during a volunteer work party at the McLane Point Preserve on Eld inlet, we came across an unusual and beautiful little flower, a Spotted coralroot orchid, or *Corallorhiza maculata*. I immediately wanted to learn more about this fascinating plant.

The Spotted coralroot orchid is a myco-heterotroph, which means essentially "gaining its nutrients from the roots of mushrooms." The Northwest is home to over a dozen species of these types of plants. These small orchids and heath family plants are unique because they have lost all their chlorophyll, do not perform photosynthesis, and rely entirely on the roots of certain mushrooms for all their nutrients.

Contrary to popular belief, not all plants are green. In fact, these myco-heterotrophes come in a great variety of colors. Once upon a time they had leaves and were green like most plants, but over time evolved to lose their pigment as they developed associations with specific fungi species. Some of the more common myco-heterotrophes in this area are the Candystick (*Allotropa virgata*), Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), Spotted coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculate),* and Striped coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata*).

While ecologists have known for many years that more than 90% of plants associate with fungi, only recently have they learned that specific plant species quite literally act as parasites on these fungi, stealing their nutrients. This may seem like a negative, but the reality is these plants play an important role in the forest's ecology. These fungi get their energy, in the form of sugars, from the trees around them and in turn provide the trees with nitrogen and other nutrients. The "parasitic" orchids take only a minute fraction of those nutrients for themselves. In turn, they occupy a unique niche and provide more diversity in the forest. These orchids also fill an important link in the forest ecosystem by providing nectar for many species of pollinating insects.

My research on this fascinating organism led me to think about what else have we may have yet to discover. Looking deeper into the lives of these plants has illustrated how truly interconnected the forest is.

Guy Maguire

So the next time you are wandering the woods and in the mountains, keep your eyes peeled! The Northwest is home to a diversity and abundance of these strange, beautiful, perplexing little flowers. ⌘

Guy Maguire was Capitol Land Trust's Stewardship Coordinator in 2010-2011 and now is our Restoration Projects Coordinator.

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Fall 2011

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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Annual Report
Pages 4-7

LAND TRUST PURCHASES HISTORIC EATONVILLE HOMESTEAD

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historic Van Eaton homestead in Eatonville – 68 acres of wetlands, floodplain, dense forest, and Mashel River shoreline that provides superior habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The 68-acre property provides habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The property is the crown jewel in the Mashel Shoreline Protection and Restoration Initiative, a multi-partner project to restore 2.2 miles of the Mashel River. In addition to protecting valuable salmon habitat, the property also affords the best access for future in-stream restoration of the confluence of the Mashel and Little Mashel rivers, a key site for salmon production.

The Mashel is the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. Forty years ago it was one of the richest steelhead rivers in the Pacific Northwest, with annual spawning runs in the thousands. Since then, the steelhead population has declined by some 80 percent. Restoring the Mashel is critical to recovery of this precious salmonid species.

Pierce County provided $1.1 million toward the purchase, which was the highest-ranked project in the county's Conservation Futures program. The Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board provided an additional $200,000 to meet the purchase price of $1.3 million.

The acquisition follows the Land Trust's acquisition, in 2009, of an adjoining 25 acres of the Van Eaton homestead. That property was the first to be acquired under Pierce County's transfer of development rights program, with additional funding from the Williams Pipeline Mitigation Fund.

"We could not be more pleased," said Terry Van Eaton, who represented the Van Eaton family in negotiations with the Land Trust. "Our dream has always been to see this property permanently conserved. We are happy to know that it will remain a vital part of the community and that its protection will help bring back the Chinook and steelhead that once thrived in the Mashel."

The two transactions mark the first time the properties have left family ownership since they were homesteaded.

In addition to the restoration project, the Land Trust anticipates working with the Town of Eatonville to incorporate portions of the property into the Town's open-space plans.

The property was homesteaded by Thomas C. Van Eaton in 1889.

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Oct, 12, 2011

Audit: State needs better handling of agency grants

Brad Shannon / The Olympian

A state performance audit of grants at four agencies revealed two that were using best practices and two that allowed questionable payments. The full audit report is **here.** It details shortcomings at the state Department of Commerce as well as the Recreation and Conservation Office.

The audits looked at samples of grant activities at agencies with the most grants or where past audits had raised questions. In all, agencies with $1.5 billion in grants over an 18 month period were looked at – including the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the state Administrative Office of the Courts.

Both the courts and the recreation-conservation agencies lacked policies and procedures to ensure adequate control s for managing grants, the audit said. Commerce had variations in its management of grants in five different programs.

There also were questions raised about allowable costs and the adequacy of documentation for costs – most of it in the courts programs. Auditors looked specifically at the Becca anti-truancy program and the CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocate, program that appoints a volunteer to advocate for abused and neglected children in custody cases.

In contrast, most of OSPI's grants were for school construction and a spot check showed it had a system in place to review documentation submitted for reimbursements.

State budget director Marty Brown wrote that the Office of Financial Management should take steps to better define grants and also code them for easier tracking.

Olympia, WA
(Thurston Co.)
The Olympian
(Cir. D. 32,810)
(Cir. Sat. 36, 482)
(Cir. S. 41,438)

AUG 10 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Groups buy river valley to protect salmon

2219

SKOKOMISH RIVER:
Flood-prone "Dips" is critical habitat

BY JOHN DODGE
Staff writer

A 160-acre chunk of the Skokomish River Valley – flood-prone, but critical salmon habitat – has been purchased for permanent protection by the Cascade Land Conservancy and its conservation partners.

Green Diamond Resource Co. sold 131 acres for $262,000, and private landowner Robert Rasmussen sold 29 acres for $110,000. The land trust used state grants to finance the deal.

The project site is near the confluence of the north and south forks of the Skokomish River and is known as the "Dips." It usually is the first area of the river valley to flood during peak river flows.

The property also is important habitat for chinook salmon, which are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act; summer chum salmon, steelhead and bull trout; and coho, fall chum and cutthroat trout.

"Conserving these properties will make a positive impact on the region's important salmon population and give our partners flexibility in their broader restoration goals in the Hood Canal Basin," said Sam Gibboney, the land conservancy's Olympic Peninsula conservation director. Those partners include the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.

Much of the area is within the river's historic floodplain and is not fit for development due to the flood hazard. But portions of the Green Diamond property were suitable for some timber harvesting, noted Eric Shallon, Green

See SALMON, *Page A4*

1 of 2

SALMON

From Page A3

Diamond manager of lands management and business development.

Shallon said the Shelton-based timber company is reviewing its timberland holdings and determined the most beneficial use for this property was habitat conservation.

The Skokomish River is the largest source of freshwater to Hood Canal. It also is home to the most frequently flooded river valley in the state, which threatens humans and salmon alike.

Acquisition of these properties will protect critical off-channel and floodplain habitat that benefits all the river's salmon and trout species, plus provide a place for floodwaters to disperse.

Funding sources for the property purchase included the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's landowner incentive program. 2219

John Dodge: 360-754-5444
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[Back]

Published August 24, 2011

Nisqually River to soon be free

JOHN DODGE; Staff writer

The last major dike removal project in the Nisqually River estuary will wrap up next week, freeing the river to flow naturally near its mouth for the first time in a century.

The 6,670 feet of earthen dike pulled out of the river delta near the Red Salmon Slough on the Pierce County side of the river caps nearly 12 years of estuary restoration work where the river meets South Sound.

In that time, more than 8 miles of dike have been removed to recover more than 900 acres of estuary on both sides of the river, federal and tribal officials said.

The latest project is on property owned by

the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The bulk of the previous work has been on the west side of the river on the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

Once unshackled, the river mouth will probably develop more tributaries and channels for fish to move in and out of the river delta, which is a prime feeding and rearing ground for juvenile salmon, noted Florian Leischner, tribal habitat biologist. The mouth of the river could even move at some point, he said.

“Historically, the river was able to move across its wide flood plain here at the mouth,” Leischner said during a tour of the project site Tuesday. “But for the past century, it’s been held in one path by the dikes.”

Estuary restoration work in the Nisqually Delta is a key cog in efforts to restore salmon runs, including Puget Sound chinook salmon, which were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999.

The estuary restoration efforts are paying dividends, said David Troutt, the tribe’s natural resources director.

“We’re tracking a lot of benefits for salmon in the estuary since it has been restored,” Troutt said. “The salmon coming into the estuary are finding the food they need here.”

Studies have shown that about 25 percent of the salmon using the estuary are from other Puget Sound river systems, including the Deschutes, White and Green rivers, Leischner said.

The river dikes were built at the turn of the 20th century to create pasture and farmland on the west side of the river and access for duck hunters on the east side. Several remnant duck blinds on the former Braget Farm are still visible on the property now owned by the tribe. They are scheduled for removal, too.

The $300,000 dike removal project, funded by state and federal grants, began Aug. 1. It includes the removal of an old wooden bridge and the creosote pilings that supported it across Red Salmon Slough.

The 13,000 cubic yards of dike material excavated along the river are being used on site to improve contours in the estuary and nearby uplands, Leischner said.

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Fish recovery board reviewing applications

2219

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's Technical Advisory Committee will review final applications for Lower Columbia region Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects next Tuesday and Wednesday at the City of Longview training room (2nd floor), 1525 Broadway St.

The review agenda is is also posted on the LCFRB website, www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us.

The project evaluation process is guided by the LCFRB Project Administration Manual, Evaluation Criteria, and scoring questions posted on the LCFRB website. After the final application evaluation, the ranked list of projects will be considered by the LCFRB for funding recommendation to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on August 5.

Project sponsors (applicants) will have no more than 10 minutes to highlight changes to each proposed project since the draft application phase.

Following each presentation by the sponsors, the LCFRB TAC will discuss project's benefits to fish, certainty of success, and cost, and will provide comments to form the basis of formal deliberations. Each TAC member will score each project, and submit the scores to LCFRB staff for compilation.

On the afternoon of July 15, the TAC will review and discuss a draft ranked project list based on scores submitted to staff. The TAC will then adopt a consensus-based list to recommend to the LCFRB Board.

LCFRB staff has published all Lower Columbia SRFB application materials to a temporary web page for ease of access and includes all materials contained in the PRISM database, managed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. In addition to the application materials, staff has posted draft Benefits to Fish scores and scoring assumptions for each project to be considered by the TAC on July 12 and 13.

Sponsors or members of the public are welcome to comment on the scores or scoring assumptions. LCFRB will continue to update application information throughout the grant round.

Written or verbal comments will be considered by the TAC on any project proposal after the sponsor's presentation as time permits. Additional opportunities for public comment include the LCFRB meeting on August 5, or in writing any time prior to August 19 for consideration by the SRFB.

Commissioners focus on tide gates, culverts

2219

by Ruby Murray

Wahkiakum County Commissioners Dan Cothren, Blair Brady and Lisa Marsyla, who participated by phone from her vacation in California, discussed Indian Jack Slough habitat restoration, a deteriorating culvert on the Elochoman River, and handled other business during their meeting Tuesday.

Dan Friesz leads Columbia Land Trust's habitat restoration project for the 185 acre property at SR 4 opposite the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge, called the Indian Jack Slough property. The Columbia Land Trust's plan will result in the filling of nearly 3,500 feet of drainage ditches, harvesting 50 acres of non-native poplars, restoring 5 acres of wetlands and planting nearly 50,000 native trees and shrubs.

The Trust plans to mow areas for elk forage and develop swales, which are transition slopes that will prevent deer from "careening into steep ditches," Friesz said.

Friesz said hydrological graphs indicate that a new tide gate near the refuge headquarters on Indian Jack Slough has increased drainage in the area, in spite of the ditch-filling that occurred last year.

Terri Butler-Bates, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist for the Willapa National Wildlife, which manages habitat for the Julia Butler Hansen refuge, appeared to support the Columbia Land Trust. Butler-Bates said that in the past year, with the new tide gate on Indian Jack Slough installed near the refuge office on the west side of SR 4, the refuge has more capacity for water to drain, and that overall water levels were being maintained.

Russ and Ann Kastberg, members of Willapa Hills Audubon Society, who have worked with restoration of Nelson Creek since 2007, also supported the Columbia Land Trust project. Russ Kastberg said he has surveyed stands of poplar and is conducting an amphibian study on the property.

Landowner Frank Loomans, whose home adjoins the Trust property, objected to the plans.

Summing up Loomans's concerns, Cothren said, "I understand you're concerned about your home and property being devalued; but there was always water there, and there will continue to be water there."

Brady brought forward constituent questions regarding the source of habitat restoration funds, economic benefit to the county and how the trust would get water to the property.

Friesz explained that the project has some federal and state funds remaining; it plans to open some grazing land so cattle can help manage canary grass. He said, after an intensive plannin process, "five to six years down the road," the Trust might consider breaching a dike.

Brady and Cothren said the commissioners would have major concerns with breaching dikes The Trust is holding a community meeting on th Indian Jack Slough property on August 10, from 10 a.m. until noon, and invites people to walk around the property and learn about the scope of the project.

Columbia Estuary Environmental Educational Program Manager, Katie Klinger, brought three students, Kyle Mullins, Amber Wirkkala and Cramer Smith, who have participated in a culvert barrier assessment in a program supported by Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST).

The students presented an overview of the fac tors they had studied, and then focused on one culvert, which needs repair.

Ground beneath the culvert at mile 10.6 on th Elochoman Valley Road has been scoured away and the culvert is rusting. There is no pool for salmon to jump from due to the scour.

Public works manager Pete Ringen and Cothren said they were aware of the problems, that the culvert should be repaired. Ringen said he would contact the Fish Recovery Board for available funding.

The commissioners also accepted a proposal to partner with US Fish and Wildlife to replace a culvert on Risk Road near Skamokawa. USFWS would "shoulder the cost and permitting of replac ing it," Ringen said.

In other business at Tuesday's meeting, commissioners learned that the Marine Resources Committee was funded for another two years. Carrie Shofner and Donna Westlind will receive $21,250 for coordination. Shofner said there may be $18,500 for projects for the coming year, but that has not been confirmed.

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The Return of King Salmon

Story by Ken Graham

For the first time in decades, fishermen on the Snake River are enjoying a two-month season for adult fall Chinook Salmon, otherwise known as King Salmon. The season opened September 1st and will close no later than October 31st. Fishermen are allowed to keep a limited number of hatchery-bred Chinook (with adipose fins clipped), but all native unclipped fish must be returned to the water unharmed.

As the chart below shows, in fifteen years, the annual adult Fall Chinook run (native and hatchery combined) has grown from less than a thousand fish counted at Little Goose Dam, to more than 43,000. According to Steve Martin, Director of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board in Dayton, a number of remedial actions taken over the past ten years are paying off. Most importantly, new sport and commercial fishing regulations in the lower Columbia River are now limiting the harvest of fall Chinook. "In the 1990s, 70% of the adult Snake River fall Chinook swimming up the Columbia River to their home waters were intercepted by lower Columbia River fishermen," Martin says. He says that now these fish are protected through very conservative fishing regulations in the lower Columbia to ensure that the vast majority survive their journey back to the Snake.

Recent improvements to the federal hydropower system are also working. "A decade ago we lost at least 10% of the smolts (small fish on the way to the ocean) at each of the dams," Martin says. "Today that number is much smaller due to improvements at the dams." He says that spilling water in the spring, barging juvenile salmon around the dams and removal of pikeminnow have all contributed to greatly improving smolt survival rates.

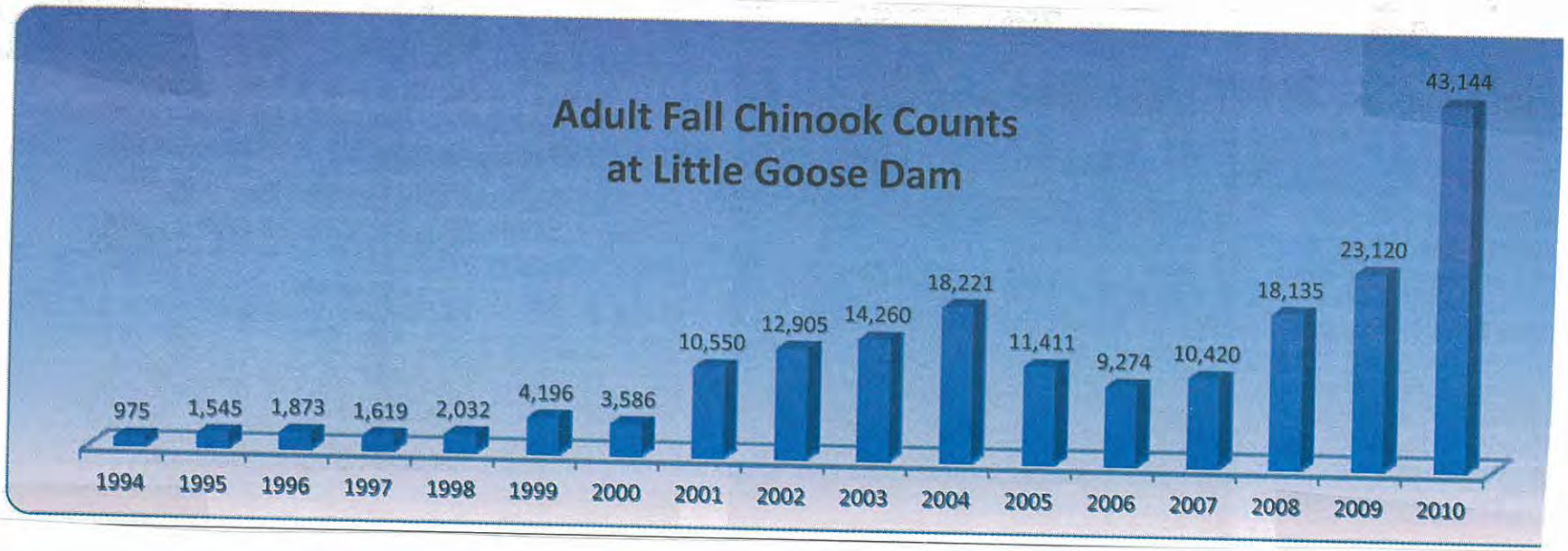
Recent improvements in ocean and river corridor conditions have also increased salmon survival rates. And fish hatcheries constructed to mitigate losses of fall Chinook due to the hydropower system (including Lyon's Ferry and the Nez Perce tribal hatcheries in Idaho) have only recently reached full production, releasing approximately 4.5 million juvenile salmon into the Snake each year.

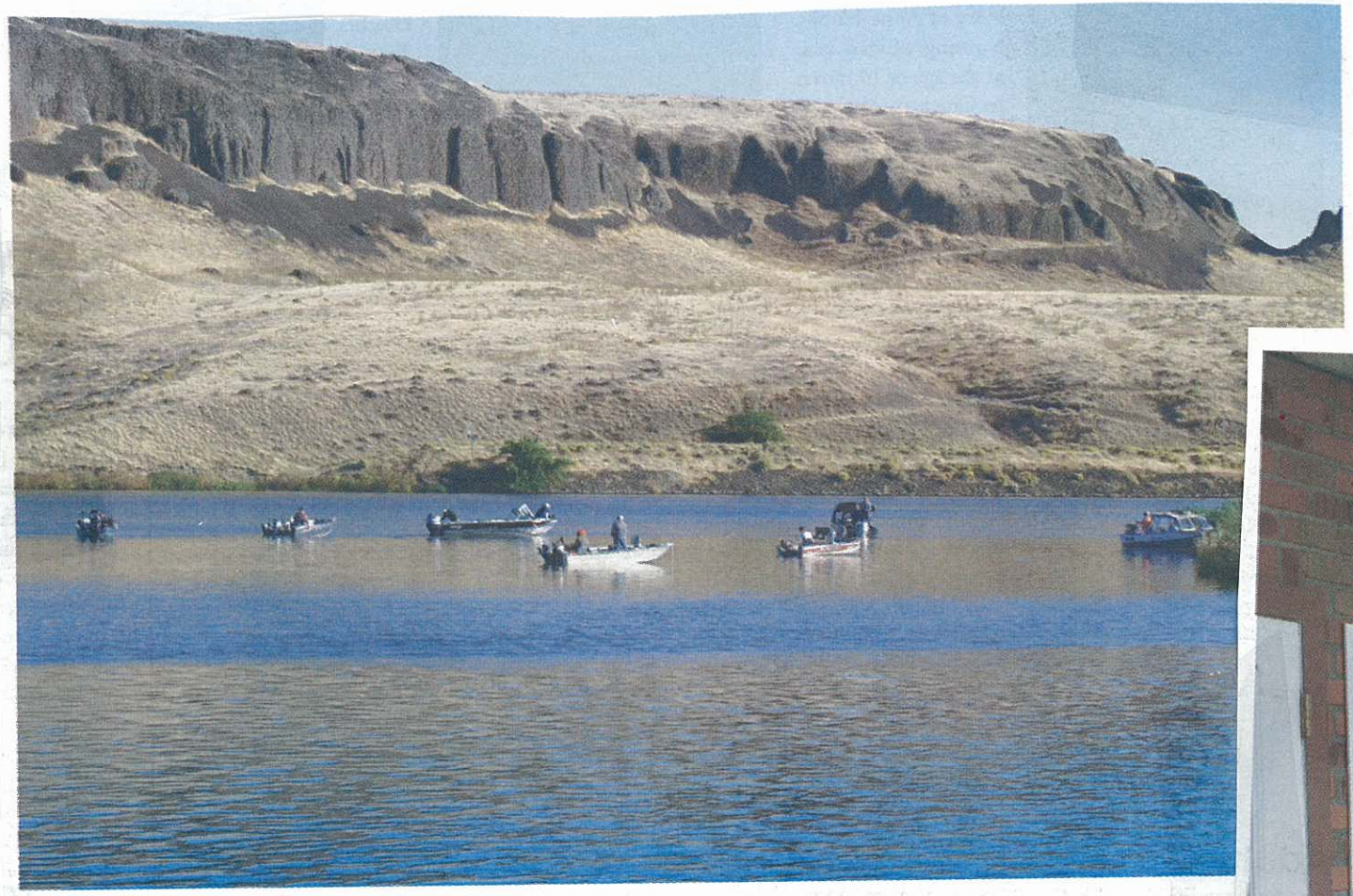
The decline of Chinook salmon runs in the Snake River began more than a century ago. "In the late 1800s, recreational and commercial fishermen targeted this prize fish and became so effective at catching them in the Columbia River that they nearly decimated the population in the early 1900s," Martin says. Next, the federal and private hydropower systems came on line in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. "That impeded migration of salmon and inundated their spawning grounds." Martin says that dams in Hell's Canyon with no fish ladders block access to about fifty percent of the salmon spawning grounds. "Throw in poor ocean conditions and continued high levels of harvest in the lower Columbia and in the ocean through much of the 1990s and the suite of pressures were too great for the salmon to overcome." No single factor is to blame for the decline.

In the early 1990s, all three runs of Chinook salmon (spring, summer and fall) were declared threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. It was this listing that led to severe restrictions on fishing for Chinook on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. It also led to the creation of the organization Steve Martin heads, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, and its efforts to improve fish habitat conditions in rivers and streams in Southeast Washington. According to Martin, a couple of conditions had to be favorable in order for fishing for Chinook to be reopened "There have to be enough hatchery fish to allow some harvesting, and there also have to be enough native fish so that the fishing activity doesn't put them at too great a risk," he says. "The opening of Chinook fishing this fall shows that both conditions have been met."

Martin reports that independent assessments have concluded that fishing for steelhead (not salmon) in the Snake River generates $30 to $50 million annually for our local economy. "I'm interested in tracking the amount of time and money spent fishing for fall Chinook this year," he says, "A two-month salmon season probably won't add up to a seven-month steelhead season but every little bit helps."

Martin says that the new fall Chinook season creates a wonderful new challenge for local fishermen. "You have to learn how to catch them," he says of the fall Chinook. "Catching salmon is something handed down generation to generation, and since it has been so long since we could catch these king salmon in the Snake River, there is a generation of fishermen who need to develop the technique without a mentor." ❑





Fishermen congretate near confluence of the Tucannon and Snake Rivers. (Photo courtesy of Snake River Salmon Recovery.)

Steve Martin outside his office in Dayton. (Photo by Ken Graham.)

Council Quarterly

Northwest Power and Conservation Council > Summer 2011

STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

Idaho Power's Plan to Meet Summer Peak-Energy Needs

One of the trends the Council's Sixth Power Plan identified was the growing demand for power in the summer months. Historically, electricity load peaks in the winter in the Pacific Northwest. According to the plan, summer peak-electricity use is expected to grow more rapidly than annual energy, making capacity a new focus for planners.

Idaho Power, a public utility serving most of Southern Idaho and a portion of eastern Oregon, offers a good example of this new priority.

"It's not an operational issue as much as a planning issue," says Mark Stokes, manager of power supply planning for Idaho Power. "For at least the last 20 years, our summer load has been growing faster than our average energy needs."

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NW Energy Coalition honors Council with conservation award

Bud Hover

Northwest Q & A: Bud Hover, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Donald "Bud" Hover of Winthrop, Washington, is an Okanogan County commissioner and hay farmer who also serves as chair of the Washington state Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The board was established by the state Legislature in 1999 to provide grants to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities in those areas of the state where salmon are present.

There are seven regional salmon recovery boards that produce recovery plans and recommend projects to the state board for funding. Hover also chairs the board for the upper Columbia River area.

Traditionally, the agriculture industry and government agencies working on salmon recovery have been at odds in the Northwest, particularly regarding water in the rivers where salmon spawn. In north-central Washington, however, the two sides have come to terms and agreed on a recovery plan for endangered species that is a model of cooperation.

Q. You played defense for a long time, as a college and professional football linebacker and as a rancher defending your water right and your business. Then you intentionally decided to give a little ground. Why?

It helps first to understand that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, which formed following the creation of the state board, has five members representing Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties, and the Yakama and Colville tribes. The three county representatives are all farmers—cherries, wheat, and in my case hay. Folks in our area are every bit as conservative as the most conservative places anywhere. Agriculture is the main economic driver in our area, and without water agriculture is dead.

When I started out, collaborators were the guys who were lined up against the wall and shot during the war. They were not good guys. A collaborator in my opinion was some guy who doesn't really have any skin in the game and has nothing to lose who wants me to give something up for him.

The farm I own has water rights that date back to the 1880s. For 35 years, I worked to protect the water rights. When I started, it was flood irrigation, very inefficient, but we had tons of water. We had claims to over 60 cubic feet per second of water from three sources. But when that was protected, I was

down to about five cubic feet per second, and so we had to change our methods or we were not going to survive.

In the mid-90s, after selling and leasing some of my land, I finally started to make some money. Then in '97 and '98 the ESA hit—we had ditches that had no screens, and one of our main irrigation districts had a ditch that crossed Forest Service property. The National Marine Fisheries Service deliberately shut us down for two years while an old screen on that ditch was replaced. As that went on, I lost over $100,000 in revenue.

That stirred my anger a bit so I started looking at ways to change things. I ran for country commissioner, won the first time around, and as a result I got put on the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, which was kind of ironic—but in a good way, as it turned out—and from that point on I figured the ESA is a law we have to deal with, and I chose to be part of the solution.

Q. Today, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan, which the board created and implements, is viewed by many as a showpiece of how to do things right for the fish and the economy. What happened to bring about the transition from confrontation to collaboration?

It was clear that the top-down approach employed by the Fisheries Service in 1997 and 1998 was not going to work. You didn't drive around in the Entiat or the Methow [river basins] in cars with state or federal markings because you were not very welcome there.

So several state legislators and county commissioners got together and said, "we're going to take this on." The Fisheries Service knew that they could create any document they wanted, and it would never be implemented here. If they really wanted to see it implemented, it had to be created from a grass-roots approach because you had to get buy-in from the local people, the people who own land along the rivers, the habitat.

I'm a long-time member of the Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association. When I ran for office, these folks formed my main constituent base. As a new member of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, the first people to approach me voicing their opposition to the recovery plan were my own constituents. They all piled on because of the way we had been treated.

At that time, the board was within a year of having its recovery plan completed, and I basically put the brakes on it because I had people chewing on me saying it wasn't a good thing for Okanogan County. I got a lot of support from Paul Ward, who represented the Yakamas on the board; Bill Towey who represents the Colvilles, was supportive, too, but also very impatient—he really wanted to get the thing done. The other members were very patient with me. We hired our executive director, Julie Morgan, and she started communicating and got that grass-roots approach going with the people in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties, kept the state and federal agencies at bay, and pulled all this stuff together.

Fortunately, we had the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office help coordinate the effort, but basically it started here and worked up. The success that we have had is because we took a grass-roots, bottom-up approach. Today, I believe in the collaboration process. It really, really has worked.

In order to do it, though, you've got to have a tough skin, a lot of patience, and an open mind. Here's a personal example: When I first came into this, I didn't give a damn about what the tribes cared about. In my opinion, they were saying the fish were endangered, but they had nets in the river. I didn't know anything about their issues. Since then I've learned that it's not just an economic issue with the tribes. It's a real deep, cultural,

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impoved fish returns.

> It's amazing when you think about it, you can get all these

people

going in the same direction.

religious issue with the tribes. I have gotten a much better understanding of their desires and needs. And I'm really happy to report, we're seeing improved fish returns.

Q. Besides the improved fish runs, what other benefits have you seen from the cooperation among landowners and government?

The things that are being done with public dollars are creating an economy in rural areas like ours. We have contractors who are gearing up for these types of projects. That's number one. Number two, we've established a multi-million-dollar sport fishing industry along the Columbia River. In the city of Pateros, there's a guy who just invested in a brand new hotel simply because of the sport-fishing industry that's developed on the Columbia and the steelhead fishing in the Methow. This industry is bringing millions of dollars into our county. It's moving us closer to meeting our goal of eventually getting these fish delisted, which is what we all want to do. It's protecting irrigation for agriculture. And it's helping the federal government meet its obligation to provide harvest opportunities for the tribes.

That being said, up here, we're at the end of the line. We've got nine dams the fish have to come through, we've got hatchery issues that are still being resolved, we've got harvest issues that impact us that are out of our area. The big thing we have control over is habitat, and we're addressing that with the plan we have.

Q. Based on your experiences over the last 10 years, what would you recommend to others who face similar challenges of protecting fish while also protecting local economies?

First, we have a good model here in Washington. The salmon recovery boards collectively look at the these issues for the whole state. We're all working together to decide how best to use these [salmon and steelhead recovery] funds. It's amazing when you think about it, you can get all these people going in the same direction. And our political leadership played a critically important role by lending their support to our efforts, particularly [U.S. Rep.] Norm Dicks and [U.S. Sen.] Patty Murray.

Second, what we strive to do is to coordinate. One of the things we've stressed with our staff is to coordinate projects so we can direct funding and also monitor and begin to get our data back and adapt the plans as we go, and provide Congress and the state Legislature with what is basically a report card to show the progress we're making, what the money is buying.

And third, the Washington way—that's what I'll call it, and this is not an arrogant statement—the Washington way of collaboration and cooperation is a way that has actually worked. I'm living proof of it. The plan that's been developed is something I can live with. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board really has been the most gratifying and fulfilling board that I've been able to sit on as a county commissioner over the last six—going on seven—years. Our experience shows what can be done with an open mind—and also a thick skin.