



SalmonGram

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Volume 7 Issue 1

Committed to Restoring South Sound Salmon Habitat

Summer 2002

Sherwood Creek Fish Passage Project gets funded!

Sherwood Creek is ~10 miles long and is a multi species watershed with both Mason Lake (977 acres) and Schumocher Creek above the project site. Sherwood Creek enters Case Inlet near Allyn in Mason Co. Currently, two 5' diameter culverts flow under a U.S. Navy Shipyard railroad track at River Mile-6.5.



This Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project will replace a major salmon passage barrier on the main stem of Sherwood Creek. SPSSEG will replace the culverts with a three span bridge that will allow for migration of salmonids at all

Salmon returning to Sherwood Creek will have unimpeded access to spawning and rearing habitat once these two culverts are removed and replaced with a bridge. Photo by George Bjorgen, Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group

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SPSSEG Hits Salmon Jackpot! Largest amount of SRFB funding EVER!

SPSSEG recently received \$2.3 million dollars from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to help improve salmon habitat in the South Puget Sound region. The grant awards were the biggest ever for the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Many grants/projects will be implemented within two construction seasons (2002 and 2003). SPSSEG was successful in both construction and non-construction applications. Great job everyone!

2002 Summer Construction Projects

WRIA 13 Salazar Fish Passage Project. This project is located on Woodland Creek in Thurston County. The project will replace two failing culverts on a private driveway crossing. The culverts are at risk of failing and most likely will not survive this winters high flow events. Project timeline is to complete the project this summer. Total project cost is \$120,000.

WRIA 14 Sherwood Creek Fish Passage Project and Anderson Lake Creek Project (tributary to Sherwood Creek). Construction for both projects begins in Summer 2002. Total project cost is \$1.1 million for Sherwood Creek and \$82,000 for Anderson Lake Creek.

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South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

The SPSSEG is a non-profit organization committed to increasing salmon populations in the South Puget Sound Region through habitat restoration, community education, and volunteer involvement.

The SPSSEG is one of fourteen Regional Enhancement Groups statewide created in 1989 by the Washington State Legislature. The Regional Enhancement Program is partially supported by surcharges on sport and commercial fishing licenses. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife provides technical and administrative support to the program.

The program is given direction through the Citizens Advisory Board which is made up of diverse interest committed to restoring the Pacific Salmon in areas throughout the state.

The SPSSEG is administered by a volunteer board of seven directors elected by the general membership.

How to get involved?
Attend the SPSSEG General Membership or Board Meetings. Volunteer on projects or take on your own project and become a project manager.

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Woodland Creek Culvert is scheduled for construction in 2002.



The Salazar Project on Woodland Creek will involve replacing the existing the two pipes with a Big "R" Bridge. Photo by Lance Winecka

SPSSEG will complete an in-stream salmon project on Woodland Creek near Lacey. This project was originally brought to the attention of SPSSEG by the Landowners Omar and Margie Salazar. The Salazar's are spending approximately \$10,000 in cash to help complete this project. The active landowner participation added an important attribute towards this successful SRFB project application.

Currently, two driveway culverts are failing and are at risk of washing out this winter. According to the landowners, the Nisqually Earthquake definitely had a negative impact on the two culverts. After the event, slumping and pot-holes occurred on the road surface. A few weeks later, the inside of the culverts began to fail. Soil and water is beginning to penetrate through the culvert. During high water flow events the culverts are

creating a velocity barrier for salmon.

Woodland Creek supports chum, coho, steelhead and cutthroat, and some chinook. This project ranked second in the WRIA 13 SRFB project list.

Project engineering and surveying has already begun. The permit process will begin as soon after the final engineered design is complete. Thurston and Mason Conservation District are providing the District Engineer's Kevin Neal and Rich Geiger to design the project.

SPSSEG will also inventory other WRIA 13 private road crossings to locate other salmon passage barriers. SPSSEG will build upon existing WDFW data to ensure all migration barriers are identified. This project will begin in 2002.

Kennedy Creek Cutthroat Study: By Chris Ellings, SPSSEG Staff and current masters student at TESC.

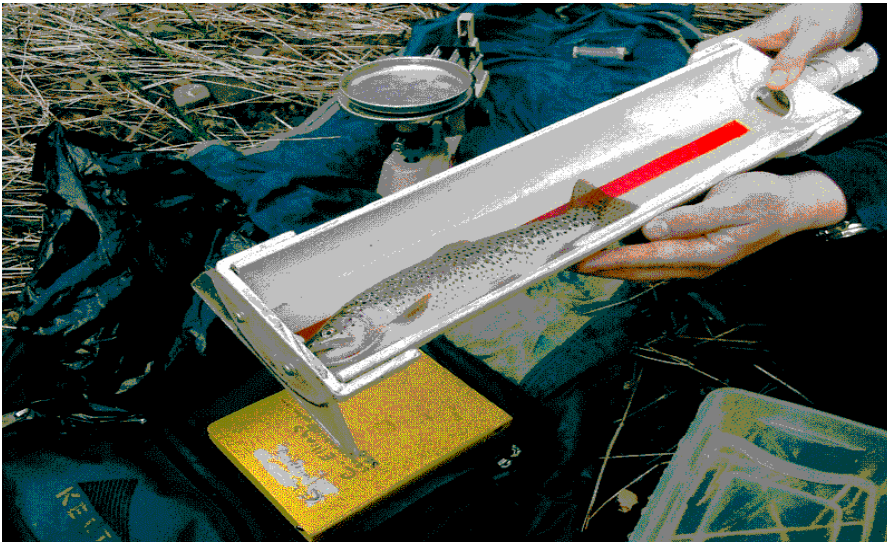
Pacific salmon are the hub of the Northwest's cultural and ecological landscape. They are considered 'keystone species' because of their immense importance to terrestrial and aquatic organisms. For example, a recent study by Jeff Cederholm and others found that 137 species of birds, mammals, and reptiles consumed salmon at one or more stages of the salmon life. In order to quantify the impact the salmon have on other biota, more detailed studies must be conducted.

My master's thesis research is focused on the influence of spawning Pacific salmon on my favorite salmonid: coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*). Coastal cutthroat trout are one of the least studied Pacific salmonid. Cutthroat display an extremely diverse array of life histories, with

anadromous and resident forms living in the same stream. All cutthroat reside in freshwater for 2-4 years before making their initial marine migration. Due to cutthroat's dependence on a healthy freshwater environment, they have been dubbed the 'canary in the coal mine' in terms of watershed health. Since the cutthroat are indicator species, they are excellent subjects to study the importance of healthy salmon runs for aquatic organisms.

The primary objective of my project is to answer the following questions: 1. Do coastal cutthroat trout incorporate nutrients from spawning salmon into their bodies? 2. Through what pathways are the nutrients incorporated? 3. How is the physical condition of cutthroat influenced by spawning salmon? In order to answer these questions, I

sampled cutthroat trout from above and below natural anadromous barriers (waterfalls) at two streams in Western Washington: Donkey Creek, a tributary of the West Fork Humpulips River, and Kennedy Creek, a tributary of Totten Inlet. After analyzing my data, I will be able to quantify the influence of spawning salmon on cutthroat by comparing differences in nutrient ratios, diet composition, and physical parameters between cutthroat sampled above a waterfall with cutthroat sampled below the waterfall. The results of my thesis could be used by managers to help set ecologically based escapement goals and to guide the use of salmon carcasses as a restoration tool.



Non-Lethal measuring of a male spawning coastal cutthroat at Kennedy Creek. Photo by Chris Ellings

“How to be Cool” By Jason Lundgren

Working for a non-profit organization has proven to be challenging and rewarding. For those of you that have been fortunate enough to work for a non-profit you know what I mean. For a little over two months I have witnessed some of the functions of our group. I have to admit at times it is a bit intimidating trying to grasp my job description, which is still in the making. Unlike past jobs with various companies

and state agencies, my job description requires me to be extremely flexible. Often our jobs require us to tackle tasks outside our area of expertise, like writing newsletters. I really appreciate the diversity that is involved in this position. I see it as being a wonderful opportunity to gain experience writing grants and environmental permits, working with the public and various agencies, maintain budgets, and most

importantly, how to effectively rehabilitate the local degraded salmon stocks. Some of the biggest challenges that have been presented to me are gaining access to private land for habitat surveys and finding a pair of waders that fit. I am very excited to be working for the group and I hope to help SPSSEG continue to be successful.

Stay Cool.

Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group begins Sherwood Study



A portion of the ASEG volunteer crew “at work”. Photo by Dave Higgins

By Lance Winecka

Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group (ASEG) is currently conducting a “Baseline” study on Sherwood Creek in Mason County. The study is funded through WDFW. The purpose of the study is to determine the quality and quantity of available salmon habitat. This information can be used to follow the long term health of the stream and watershed. Several important characteristics will be studied during the survey

including: stream wet width, ordinary high water width, water depth, substrate, macro invertebrates, water flow, snorkel surveys, riparian cover percentage, water temperature and general characteristics of the stream.

This is a great opportunity to conduct such a study. The U.S. Navy Railroad Culverts are scheduled to be replaced this summer and this information will be helpful in determining the success of the bridge

project. All data will be exported to WDFW and other agencies.

ASEG is a volunteer group associated with the Allyn Community Association. Several dedicated members of the group have been instrumental in bringing solid projects to Case Inlet. Bill Worth, Dave Higgins, George Bjorgen, Rich Phipps, and John Carlson have been great advocates for salmon in their local watershed.

Local watershed groups are important because they have a personal interest in their watershed. The ability for a group to observe a stream through time is invaluable for the salmon resource. It would be nearly impossible for agencies to collect detailed information on all watersheds in Washington State. These volunteer watershed groups are a vital component of salmon recovery.

Does your group need assistance? Do you have a salmon project in mind?

SPSSEG is pleased to provide support to ASEG and other community groups who need technical assistance. Please feel free to contact our office @ 253.446.1824.

Other New SPSSEG Salmon Projects

Perry Creek Tributary Fish Passage Project (trib to Mud Bay near Olympia) - This project will re-introduce salmon to historical habitat in the Perry Creek watershed. For the past 50 years a pair of impassable culverts have blocked salmon migration. Chum, coho, and cutthroat are expected to utilize the "existing" habitat. Total project cost is \$124,676. Funding source is SRFB.

Gosnell Fish Passage Project (tributary to Oakland Bay near Shelton) - This project will replace two culverts on a mainstem stream with a bridge. The project will allow for unimpeded salmon migration to spawning and rearing areas in Gosnell Creek. Included in the project was nearly 3000 feet of downstream fencing provided by Mason Conservation District. Total project cost is \$132,626. Funding source is SRFB.

WRIA 14 Project Development (non-construction - Kennedy/Goldsborough Watershed) - SPSSEG will coordinate and develop salmon passage projects into preliminary engineered design concepts. SPSSEG will work with WRIA 14 Lead Entity and Technical Committee, WDFW, and Squaxin Island Tribe to prioritize projects. Total project cost is \$65,500. Funding source is SRFB.

WRIA 13 Culvert Inventory (non-construction - Deschutes River Water-

shed) - SPSSEG will conduct an inventory of private roads (including the cities of Olympia and Tumwater).

Biologists will conduct habitat surveys on prioritized streams in several watersheds. Total project cost is \$108,950. Funding Source is SRFB.

Minter Creek Barrier Replacement Project (Pierce/Kitsap County) - SPSSEG will use a watershed approach to salmon habitat restoration by replacing six barrier culverts on Minter Creek with salmon friendly alternatives. This project will take two to three years to fully implement. Total project cost is \$783,392. Funding source is SRFB.

Nisqually River Off-Channel Habitat Assessment The goals of this project are to inventory existing off-channel habitat, identify sites with a potential to be restored or preserved, and produce a landowner parcel specific prioritized list of sites with restoration or preservation potential. Off-channel habitat availability is important because it increases habitat diversity and is utilized by juvenile salmonids for rearing and overwintering. Some side-channel areas are also important for spawning. The total amount approved for funding from SRFB is \$156,137.

Lower Mashel Enhancement Project (Nisqually) This project will focus on the lower 0.7 miles of the Mashel River; which includes vital spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, coho,

pink, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

This project will decommission or modify 0.5 miles of a washed-out road in the lower Mashel River valley to stop and prevent future fine sediment input. Several pieces of Large Woody Debris (LWD) will also be added to the reach for the purpose of gravel sorting, pool formation, bank erosion reduction, and to increase cover. The total amount approved for funding from SRFB is \$133,000.

Lower Yelm Enhancement Project This project will focus on the lower 0.4 miles of Yelm Creek, which is very important spawning and rearing habitat for chum and coho, as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout. Occasionally pink and chinook salmon also utilize this creek. The primary objectives of this project are to re-construct a historic off-channel pond, plant native plants for cover, fence out livestock from several hundred meters of creek, and restore access at a logjam. The total amount approved for funding from SRFB is \$113,500.

Jorgenson Creek Fish Passage Project This fish passage project is located in Thurston County. Partners include Thurston Conservation District, Washington Conservation Corp, Lacey Stream Team and People for Salmon, NOAA, and USFWS. This project will open up over 1/2 mile of low gradient stream. Total cost is \$74,200.

Kennedy Creek Trail Update

The Kennedy Creek Trail 2001 was a HUGE success. Nearly 3,000 people visited the trail to watch chum salmon spawn. Many school teachers incorporated the trail into their environmental curriculum. Over 40 school groups visited the trail to observe the salmon. Shelly Kirk-Rudeen did a great job organizing the trail and the docent training. If you are interested in being a volunteer docent for the trail this year please email us at spsseg@qwest.net. Both weekday and weekend volunteers are needed! See you there.



Kennedy Creek Project Partners

SPSSEG
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Mason Conservation District
Mason County
Trout Unlimited
South Sound Fly Fishers
South Sound GREEN
Taylor United Shellfish
The Evergreen State College
Squaxin Island Tribe

(Sherwood Creek - from Page 1)

life stages.

SRFB awarded SPSSEG \$822,000 to complete the project. The money allotment was the single largest grant award in the south Puget Sound region. The U.S. Navy will provide \$320,000 in match funds. Project partners include: WDFW, Squaxin Island Tribe, Simpson Timber Company, Mason Conservation District, U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks, PS&P Railroad, Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group, The U.S. Navy, and SPSSEG.

The Sherwood Creek project was ranked #1 in Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 14 SRFB project list. The project has had a great deal of attention from around the region. Sherwood Creek was appointed a Priority Index (PI) number from the WDFW of 51. This was the second highest PI in the state. SPSSEG is currently working with the Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group to conduct a baseline study of Sherwood Creek.

(2002 Summer Projects Con't from page 1)

WRIA 14 Spring Creek Fish Passage Project and Schumocher Creek Fish Passage Project. Both Mason County SRFB projects were held up with permitting issues but they are now on-track to be built this summer. Total project cost is \$160,000

WRIA 14 Fuller Fish Passage Project. This project is funded by People for Salmon and NOAA Community Restoration Program. The project will enhance downstream habitat and provide better salmon access to an existing fish ladder. Project timeline is for summer construction. Total project cost is \$9,450

Lower Mashel River Restoration Project



The Lower Mashel River, a tributary of the Nisqually, is to receive a healthy dose of LWD and have a road failure revegetated. Photo by Chris Ellings

New SPSSEG Staff Introductions!

In order to adapt to the impressive growth of the group, three new employees were hired to complete multiple tasks.

Jason Lundgren has been hired as a field biologist to primarily work on the WRIA 13 Private Road Inventory and to conduct Stream Habitat Assessment Surveys. Jason is a graduate from The Evergreen State College. He recently was employed by WDFW and DNR. He brings an excellent attitude and field survey experience to SPSSEG.

Christopher Ellings has also been hired as a field biologist and will primarily work in the Nisqually Watershed. He will be a large part the Off-Channel Habitat Assessment, Lower Mashel Enhancement Project, and Lower Yelm Enhancement Project. Chris is a graduate from Humboldt State University. He is currently completing his masters at The Evergreen State College.

Jeannie Beach has been doing great work at the SPSSEG main office in Puyallup. Jeannie has valuable experience in non-profit administration. She has taken over daily office operations and personnel duties.

Lance Winecka and **Lenore Jensen** round out the SPSSEG staff.

SPSSEG would like to thank former employee **Courtney Pariera** for her valuable services over the past year. Courtney recently left the group to pursue her Masters Degree. Good luck Courtney!

SPSSEG grows in more ways than one! Meet the staff at the next General Membership meeting, July 31st at Sumner City Hall at 6 p.m.!

SPSSEG 2002 Calendar

Activity	June	July	August	September	October
General Membership Meeting		July 31 Sumner City Hall 6:00 p.m.		September 11 Spanaway/ Parkland 6:00 p.m.	
SPSSEG Board Meeting	June 5 NW Indian Fish Commission 5:30 p.m.	July 10 Puyallup Tribe Hatchery 5:30 p.m.	August 7 NW Indian Fish Commission 5:30 p.m.	September 4 Puyallup Tribe Hatchery 5:30 p.m.	October 2 NW Indian Fish Commission 5:30 p.m.
Other Presentations: Please call to	"Wildlife in Your Backyard" presented by Thurston CD		"Horses for Clean Water" presented by Thurston and Mason CD	"We All live Upstream" presented by Thurston CD	"Horses for Clean Water" Farm Tours by MCD
Salmon Life Cycle—follow the fish!	End of downstream juvenile migration	Ocean feeding	Ocean feeding	Adults begin to stage in estuary	Beginning of spawning runs
Miscellaneous -Call for info on volunteer opportunities	Baseline study on Sherwood Creek – throughout the summer Volunteers Needed	Happy Independence Day! Go Fishing!		Kennedy Creek Salmon Docent Training. Very fun! ASEG Spawner Surveys	Salmon Carcass Distribution in Several Watersheds

Membership Renewal Time!

Are you still a member of SPSSEG? Remember it is good "karma" to be a paying member of salmon enhancement groups. Help support your local RFEQ complete quality salmon projects near your home. If your year-long membership has expired please renew soon.

SPSSEG is excited to implement several on-the-ground salmon projects this summer. It has been a blockbuster year for the group. Your membership really helps!

We would love to meet you at our next General Membership

Meeting to discuss your ideas of future salmon projects.

If you are not able to make the meeting, please use the membership renewal form on the back of this newsletter. Call Jeannie if you are not sure about your membership status 253.446.1824.

SPSSEG would like to thank the returning board members and new board members for their great work. The Board volunteers many hours to help keep the group functioning at a high performance level. THANK YOU from staff and members!

SPSSEG Board

Blake Smith-*President*
Puyallup Tribe Salmon Enhancement Biologist

Jeanette Dorner-*Vice President*
Nisqually Tribe Salmon Recovery Program Manager

Terry Wright-*Board Member*
NW Indian Fisheries Commission

Marc Wicke-*Board Member*
Tacoma Power Biologist

Richard Johnson-*Board Member and Treasurer*

White River/Muckleshoot Hatchery

Amy Hatch-*New Board Member*
Lead Entity Coordinator for WRIA 14

Monty Mahan-*New Board Member*
Pierce Conservation District Manager

SPSSEG Membership Form



South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/St./Zip _____

Phone : Home _____ Work _____

- à Individual Membership.....\$10
- à Family Membership..... \$15
- à Business Donation.....\$200
- à Corporate Sponsorship..... \$500

Please Return form to:
SPSSEG, 6824 Pioneer Way East Puyallup, WA 98371

SPSSEG Staff

Puyallup Office:
Lenore Jensen, *Project Manager*
Jeannie Beach, *Office Administrator*
253.446.1824

Thurston Conservation District Office:
Lance Winecka, *Field Biologist*
Jason Lundgren, *Field Biologist*
Chris Ellings, *Field Biologist*
360.754.3588 ext 101

The SPSSEG Board meets 1st Wednesday of the month

SalmonGram is published Quarterly by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

Editors: Lance Winecka
Jason Lundgren, Chris Ellings, and
Lenore Jensen.

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