



# SalmonGram

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Committed to Restoring South Sound Salmon Habitat

Fall 2004

## AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR SPSSEG!

This past summer, SPSSEG staff had one of the most successful seasons for our group, completing a record thirteen salmon habitat restoration projects. Three projects were in WRIA 10/12, two in WRIA 11, one in WRIA 13, six for WRIA 14, and one in WRIA 15.

**WRIA 15—Minter Creek**—This project employs a watershed approach to the selection and removal of five fish passage barriers. They will be replaced with structures that allow migration of all species and life stages, transport of sediment, LWD and high flows. The lower barrier was replaced this year and the next four will occur in 2005. This project collectively opens up nearly ten miles of spawning and rearing habitat for chum, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout.



Minter Creek Post-Construction with Paul Tappel and Jason Lundgren

**WRIA 11—Lower Yelm Creek Restoration**—This project focused on the lower .40 miles of Yelm Creek, which provides important spawning and rearing habitat for

chum, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout. Occasionally pink and Chinook salmon also utilize this creek. Rearing habitat was made available by re-constructing a historic off-channel pond area and restoring access through a logjam in a canyon. This gave salmon access to nearly 10 miles of stream and tributary habitat. An existing fence was also improved to ensure livestock exclusion from the creek. This project improved riparian vegetation by planting along the creek and pond.



Lower Yelm Creek Post-Construction

**Lower Mashel River** - The Mashel River includes vital spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, coho, pink, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. This project added 7 Large Woody Debris (LWD) jams to the lower 0.7 miles (continued on page 4)

***SOUTH PUGET  
SOUND SALMON  
ENHANCEMENT  
GROUP***

The SPSSEG is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that conducts salmon restoration, salmon enhancement and community education to increase salmonid populations in the South Puget Sound region.

The SPSSEG is one of fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups created in 1989 by the Washington State Legislature. The Regional Fishery 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 SPSSEG is administered by a volunteer board of nine directors elected by the general membership.

**Terry Wright**-*President* - NWIFC

**Blake Smith**-*Vice President*  
Puyallup Indian Tribe

**Richard Johnson**-*Secretary*  
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

**Jen Thurman Williams**-*Treasurer*  
Local Business Owner

**Sally Hicks**-*Board Member*  
Private Consultant

**Marc Wicke**-*Board Member*  
Tacoma Power

**Joe Williams**-*Board Member*

**Open**—*Board Position*

**Open**—*Board Position*

**How to get involved?**

**Attend the SPSSEG General Membership meetings. Volunteer on projects or just get involved!**

***South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG)***  
***6700 Martin Way East***  
***Suite 112***  
***Olympia, WA 98516***

**Sherwood Creek Estuary Project -  
Creating Community Partnerships**  
*by Lance Winecka*

Salmon restoration is a great opportunity to develop partnerships and raise funds for local projects. The South Sound Fly fishers (SSFF) have joined forces with the Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group (ASEG) and SPSSEG to help develop an estuary project in Case Inlet at the mouth of Sherwood Creek near Allyn, WA. SSFF recently hosted



a banquet and auction on October 16<sup>th</sup> that raised nearly \$5,000 towards the completion of a salmon habitat restoration effort in North Bay. This is a new endeavor for each group and we are all excited to see the outcome of hard work, dedication, and partnerships.

Historically, there was a functioning braided estuary at Sherwood Creek that provided diverse habitat conditions for salmonids in the watershed. There have been several significant human disturbances in the estuary including bulkhead armoring and a small earthen levee within the estuary tidal interchange zone. This levee was likely created in the 1950's with native materials to divert freshwater away from commercial shellfish beds adjacent to the estuary. The levee is about 3 feet higher than the surrounding estuary and is about 200 feet long.

While this levee diverts freshwater away from shellfish it also diverts Sherwood Creek flows into a confined channel at the confluence with Case Inlet. This confined channel scenario increases predation on juvenile and adult salmonids by birds and seals and limits estuary function. The existing conditions limit the available habitat needed by salmonids to escape predation and openly feed in the productive estuary.

This project proposes to remove or breach small sections of the existing levee to create natural estuary conditions. This condition will improve juvenile survival by creating braided channels at the confluence with Case Inlet. The project will rely on outgoing tides to recreate the historical estuary conditions.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) currently owns the property affected by this project and the opportunity for restoration is high. Several more important steps are needed to ensure this project will become a success. During preliminary data collection it appears that there is no longer a commercial shellfish in the immediate area. It is important to work with the local shellfish community to further collaborate on this project. This project will likely need an Army Corps of Engineers permit and a shoreline Hydraulic Permit Approval (HPA). Project proponents also need

*(continued on page 3)*

### Dalco Passage Oil Spill

by NWIFC Emmett O'Connell

An oil spill of approximately 1,000 gallons from unknown origin was reported to the Washington State Department of Ecology on October 14, 2004. The oil spill was generally in the area of Commencement Bay in Pierce County and in King County on Vashon/Maury Island. It is estimated that 15 miles of shoreline were affected with a light sheen of oil, while six miles of shoreline were affected with a heavier sheen.



Oil sheen has been observed as far north as Port Blakely and Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island. To the south, oil has been observed at the sound end of Vashon and Maury islands. The southern beaches of Vashon and Maury islands and Quartermaster Harbor received the heaviest concentrations of oil.

According to the Coast Guard, there are several eelgrass beds, shallow sub tidal areas, baitfish spawning beaches, and salt marsh habitats in the area. This is also a major feeding area for birds, however at this time bird concentrations are lower than usual.

One oiled Western Grebe was recovered from Des Moines marina Oct. 15. The Grebe was released 10 days later after receiving care at the Progressive Animal Welfare Society wildlife treatment center.

A seal pup that had oil on part of its fur was taken for treatment, but died Oct. 16 at the PAWS treatment center. The seal pup is being evaluated by NOAA Fisheries.

The Washington State Department of Health announced the beaches impacted by the oil spill remain under a precautionary closure for the harvest of clams, oysters and other intertidal species, including seaweed.



Testing will be conducted to determine when harvesting can resume, after clean up activities are completed. The department is updating recreational harvest advisories as needed. The advisories can be viewed on the Department of Health Web site (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/Pubs/dalco-oil-spill.htm>).

The origin of the spill remains under investigation. Samples of the spilled substance have been collected and the process has begun to match the samples to the vessels traveling through the area.

**(Sherwood Creek, continued)** an engineered design and cost estimates to successfully complete this endeavor. This project is important locally because there has been about \$1.7 million dollars spent in Sherwood Creek Watershed (upstream) since 2002. This project will likely cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000 and would provide an excellent salmon benefit with a relatively low capital investment. If things continue to go smoothly there is an excellent chance this project may be considered for summer 2005 construction.

*Sherwood Creek Project Highlights:*

- ◆ Project would remove unnatural levee in Sherwood Creek estuary
- ◆ Provide better stream function
- ◆ Decrease predation in estuary
- ◆ Preliminary engineering and project management have already begun
- ◆ Inexpensive project with great salmon benefits
- ◆ Diverse salmon stream and productive estuary

2004 Summer Construction (continued from page 1)



One of seven log jams placed on the Mashel

of the Mashel River. The primary purpose of these in-stream wood pieces is to promote gravel retention, form pools, increase cover, and reduce bank erosion. The secondary objective of this project is to enhance the riparian vegetation with native plantings. This project also modified 1,500 feet of a previous washed-out road in the lower Mashel River valley to control rain/spring surface runoff and prevent future landslides by removing a filled/plugged culvert, adding drainage dips, and eliminating side-cast material.

**WRIA 13—Perkins Creek**—This creek is in the McLane watershed and is a multiple salmonid stream system. An anadromous fish barrier was replaced with a 14 foot span squash culvert that will allow unimpeded salmonid migration at all life stages to one mile of habitat and allow the transport of stream bed material and large woody debris.



Perkins Creek Culvert Post-Construction

**WRIA 14— Frye Cove** -This project was funded by FFFPP that replaced a salmon passage barrier culvert near Eld Inlet. The culvert is located low in the watershed and will provide access for rearing and spawning salmonids.

**Galivan Project** - This project was funded by FFFPP that replaced a salmon passage barrier on a tributary to Perry Creek.

**Goat Hill Creek** -This project was funded by FFFPP that replaced a salmon barrier culvert on a small tributary to Lake Isabella in Mason County. Green Diamond Resources (formerly Simpson) helped implement this project by providing a work crew and heavy machinery.

**Elson Creek** - SPSSEG recently partnered with WA DNR to help restore an old hatchery complex on Elson Creek in Little Skookum Inlet. The hatchery was decommissioned and the historic stream

channel was restored with LWD and boulders. SPSSEG provided engineering funds, staff support, and helped coordinate the fish removal.

**Perry Creek Tributary** - A total fish migration barrier on a small tributary to Perry Creek was replaced with a 12-foot culvert, allowing upstream passage of all fish and life stages. About 25 landowners partnered to help replace the existing culvert and restore approximately 175 feet of stream channel to make up for the 6 foot outfall drop of the old culvert.

(continued on page 5)



Perry Creek Pre-Construction



Perry Creek Post-Construction

**2004 Summer Construction** (continued from page 4)

**Eich Road** - SPSSEG recently partnered with Mason County to replace a barrier culvert and install a pre-stressed concrete bridge. This project is located on a tributary to Skookum Creek off Highway 108. About 1.5 miles of habitat will become more accessible to several species of salmon.

**WRIA 10/12- Slide Creek and Foothills Trail**—Slide Creek involved three culvert removals and nearly four miles of road abandonment in the Greenwater Basin. The Foothills Trail project provided fish passage to over ten acres of open water and wetlands in the South Prairie Creek watershed. These projects were the result of a partnership with the Pierce Conservation District and SPSSEG.

**96th Street Oxbow**—This project installed a six foot diameter fish friendly culvert on the Puyallup River levee, providing access to a historic oxbow and backwater habitat on the Puyallup River (mile 14.5). Construction was completed in October 2004 and volunteer plantings are scheduled for November.



Eich Road Culvert Pre-Construction



Eich Road Bridge Post- Construction



96th Street Oxbow Post-Construction

**PROJECT FACT SUMMARY**

26 acres of wetland access opened

27 miles of improved access to salmonid habitat

\$1,445,000 spent on thirteen projects (approximately)

\$350,000 Pierce County Conservation District construction dollars

**A great big thank you to our partners on this summer's construction projects:**

- ◆ Mason County Conservation District (MCD)
- ◆ Pierce County Conservation District (PCD)
- ◆ Green Diamond Resources
- ◆ Nisqually Indian Tribe
- ◆ Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ◆ Department of Ecology
- ◆ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ◆ WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
- ◆ Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)
- ◆ Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
- ◆ Family, Forest and Fish Passage Program
- ◆ US Forest Service
- ◆ National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- ◆ Numerous private landowners
- ◆ InterAgency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)
- ◆ WA Department of Natural Resource
- ◆ Pierce County Water Programs
- ◆ Thurston County Stream Team
- ◆ Thurston County Conservation District (TCD)
- ◆ Puyallup Indian Tribe



## SPSSEG Membership Form

### South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St./Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ◇ Individual Membership.....\$15
- ◇ Family Membership.....\$25
- ◇ Business Membership.....\$200
- ◇ Corporate Sponsorship..... \$500

**Please Return form to:**  
**6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112**  
**Olympia, WA 98516**

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### Personnel Updates — By Teresa Moon

Along with having a very busy construction season, it has been very busy in the office as well, saying farewell to co-workers and welcoming the new. Here is an update to many of the new faces that you will be seeing around our office:

Our Executive Director, **Cedar Bouta**, left the group at the beginning of September to pursue new career opportunities. We want to thank her for her two years of hard work and contribution. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors!

Our Accounts Manager, **Joan Con-sani**, left the group in August to accept a position with a company in Tacoma. We want to thank her for all of her work with our 2003 federal audit and for taking care of our accounting needs. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.

**Cheryl Mongovin** started with the group at the beginning of October, filling Cedar's position. We reor-

ganized within SPSSEG a bit and Cheryl's official title is Operations Director. She brings with her 20+ years of broad administrative and management experience, skills in facilitation, project management, and computer programming.

**Christine Garst** is our new Accounts Manager, who started with the group in August. Christine brings with her several years of accounting experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. While new to Washington State and to conservation/recovery projects she has proven to be a quick study and is now a strong advocate for salmon projects in the South Sound area. She has been a great addition to our team and we

are excited to welcome her to SPSSEG.

**Caitlin Braymer**, is our new WCC/Americorps intern who started with the group the beginning of October. Caitlin is an Evergreen State College student who's focus is Environmental Science. She brings with her a working knowledge of Forest Ecology, Salmonid Ecology, Hydrology, and experience in Environmental Education. She has jumped right into updating our website, outreach at weekend festivals, and Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail volunteer trainings. We are excited to have her assistance with education and outreach.

**Teresa Moon** joined us in May as our temporary Nisqually Project Manager. We are happy to announce that we were able to make her a permanent member of our staff!

Activity	November	December	2005 January	February	March
<b>General Membership Meetings</b>	Wednesday, Nov. 17th Tacoma Public Library 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	<i>Happy Holidays!</i>	Annual Membership Meeting <b>Information Coming Soon!</b>	<b>Annual Board Elections/ General Membership Meeting</b>	No Scheduled Meeting
<b>SPSSEG Board/Staff Meetings</b>	Wednesday, Nov. 10th Puyallup 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 8th NWIFC Conf. Room 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 12th Puyallup 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Feb. 9th NWIFC Conf. Room 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Mar 9th Puyallup 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
<b>Chum Salmon Viewing</b>	Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail Saturdays & Sundays November 6th-28th Nov 11th & Nov 26th				

**Board Update**

We are sorry to have to say goodbye to two of our Board Members, Jeannette Dorner and Jason Manassee. We are very appreciative of all the time they have volunteered and all of the important input they have provided. Jason has been on our Board since December 2003 and Jeannette has participated on our Board for three years. Thanks again for donating time out of your busy schedules!

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board Projects: Round 5 Lead Entity Rankings—  
Total SPSSEG SRFB Application Dollar Amount: \$4,788,919.00**

**WRIA 10/12**

1. Inglin Dairy Farm (PCD \$577,000)
2. Electron Dam (SPSSEG \*\$53,000)  
WITHDRAWN
3. Levee Setback Feasibility (Pierce Co Water Programs \$300,000)
4. Nearshore Assessment (SPSSEG \*\$286,000)
5. Boise Creek (King County \$160,000)

**WRIA 11**

1. Powell Creek Acquisition/Culvert Removal (\*\$500,000 with \$100,000 for SPSSEG; Nisqually Land Trust)
2. Mashel Restoration (SPSSEG \*\$650,000)
3. Acquisition Projects (Nisqually Land Trust)
4. Nearshore Assessment (SPSSEG \*\$286,000)  
This project was taken off the list and submitted in the multi-lead entity project funding.

**WRIA 13**

1. Nearshore Project Development (SPSSEG \*\$74,412)
2. Deschutes Feasibility Study (TRPC \$221,740)
3. Green Cove Creek Fish Passage (SPSSEG \*\$1,322,462.00)
4. Stream Typing (WA. Trout \$63,500)
5. Adams Creek (SPSSEG \*\$61,881)

**WRIA 14**

1. Bay/Malaney Creek Habitat Acquisition (Capitol Land Trust and Mason County \$655,300)
2. WRIA 14 Nearshore Project Development (SPSSEG, \*\$74,662)
3. Hiawata Fish Passage Project (SPSSEG \*\$440,064)
4. Jarrell Cove Fish Passage Project (SPSSEG \*\$389,000)

**WRIA 15**

1. E. Kitsap Nearshore Habitat Assessment and Prioritization (Kitsap Co. \$181,050)
2. Chico Creek Instream Project (Kitsap Co. \$474,132)
3. Close Shoreline Acquisition (City of Bainbridge Island \$250,000)
4. Beaver Creek Estuary Restoration (Mid-Sound RFEG \$530,000)
5. Rocky Creek Fish Passage (SPSSEG \*\$558,239)
6. Olalla Creek Fish Passage (Mid-Sound RFEG and Kitsap Co. 367,450)
7. Little Minter Creek Fish Passage (SPSSEG \*\$93,199)
8. Schel-chelb Estuary Acquisition and Restoration (10,000 Years Institute \$369,050)
9. Manitou Beach Salt Marsh (City of Bainbridge Island \$354,454)

**\*Dollar amounts are SRFB request**

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# HUGE CHUM RUN EXPECTED . . .

**KENNEDY CREEK  
TRAIL OPENS  
SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 31**



**Open to the Public:  
Saturdays and Sundays**

November 6-28

**Holidays**

Thursday, November 11  
and Friday, November 26

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, located in South Mason County, will be open for visitors on weekends beginning Sunday, October 31 through Thanksgiving weekend. This is an excellent opportunity for local residents to see salmon in their natural environment. The half-mile trail, hosted by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG), is mostly ADA accessible. Volunteer Trail Guides will be available to answer questions. For more information, call (360) 754-6464 or visit [www.spsseg.org](http://www.spsseg.org).

**Directions**

The Salmon Trail is located off Highway 101 halfway between Olympia and Shelton. Southbound from Shelton, turn west on Old Olympic Highway at milepost 356. Northbound from Olympia, turn west on Old Olympic Highway between milepost 358 and 357. Go ¾ mile to a gravel road signed “Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail.” Follow the gravel road ½ mile to the Trail parking lot.

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*SalmonGram*

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Olympia, Washington 98516

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