



# SalmonGram

*Committed to Restoring South Sound Salmon Habitat*

*Fall 2006*

## Another Successful Year of Habitat Restoration Projects for South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Pierce County-Mason County-Thurston County...we did projects in all of them this summer with funding from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), Department of Ecology-Coastal Protection Fund (DOE-CPF), US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS), National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), FishAmerica and WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) federal and state Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) base funding. Our staff of three great project managers ensured funds were well spent and projects completed successfully.



Cross-stream view of installed LWDs on the Mashel.

### **Pierce County**

#### Mashel River Restoration

Eleven engineered log jams were placed in the river to enhance in-stream habitat, recruit additional

wood and create off-channel habitat. Riprap was removed and riparian buffers restored along the two miles of river. Initial SRFB funding was leveraged for an additional 25% in funding. [Teresa Moon PM (project manager); SRFB/USFWS/Fish America/NFWF/Pierce County/Pierce Conservation District]

#### Horn Creek Riparian Planting

This was a new kind of project for us—no culvert or construction

*Continued on page 3...*



Newly constructed log jams on the Mashel River, Eatonville

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	<i>Pg.</i>
<i>Board Elections</i>	2
<i>Jeff Cederholm Tribute</i>	4
<i>New SPSSEG Vests</i>	5
<i>Mashel Monitoring</i>	6
<i>Kennedy Creek—2006</i>	7
<i>Nearshore Emphasis</i>	8

## 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 directors elected by the general membership.

**Joe Williams**—President, *ret. DOE*  
**Terry Wright**—Vice President—NWIFC  
**Dan Wrye**—Treasurer  
 Pierce County Water Programs  
**Bill Graeber**—Board Member  
 Retired NOAA, Stillwater Sciences  
**Blake Smith**—Board Member  
 Puyallup Indian Tribe  
**Marc Wicke**—Board Member  
 Tacoma Power

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## Call For Interested Members—

Serve on our Board of Directors!

Every February, SPSSEG holds its annual elections for new board members. This year we have five two-year positions and a one-year position open.

The all volunteer Board provides vision and direction to SPSSEG at monthly meetings either in Lacey, University Place or Puyallup. Directors are in contact with the Executive Director and each other concerning policy, project and funding issues, usually on a weekly or monthly basis. Email is a common form of communication.

The offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are filled from the board annually.

Directors must be a SPSSEG member to serve—expertise in salmon biology is not necessary, however, dedication to or interest in salmon restoration is essential.

The Board is particularly interested in Directors with a business, financial, education, legal or other background that would complement the salmon biology and tribal affiliations currently on the board.

The Directors are very active and we are seeking team-oriented individuals with a passion for helping us build on our success.

Board members are expected to actively represent SPSSEG in the community, attend meetings,

provide technical and/or organizational expertise, and govern the financial wellness of the organization.

For this election, we are especially interested in individuals with financial management backgrounds, contract management, construction experience and/or volunteer and outreach interests.

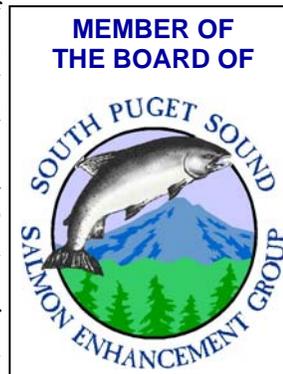
Specific goals of the organization for 2007—which have been identified by the current board and staff—are to develop an outreach/education/volunteer program; identify a long-term direction and strategy for SPSSEG; and identify more member opportunities.

Our volunteer Directors are rewarded for their time and dedication by seeing on-the-ground salmon recovery in action. Through setting priorities, building partnerships, raising funds and providing positive direction to hard-working staff, our Directors make a significant, meaningful and highly appreciated contribution to our community and future generations.

If you are interested in serving on our board, email a brief note with your interests and intent to serve to [cherylm@spsseg.org](mailto:cherylm@spsseg.org).

We'll invite you to our January or February board meeting so you can get a flavor of our organization. You may also contact any of our current board members listed to the left.

We hope to hear from you! 



**Our New WCC Intern—Sarah Clarke**—came to us from a WCC crew position; in fact, her crew donated their time last summer to build steps at the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail and do routine maintenance.

She's very familiar with the trail, which is a good thing—all of November, Sarah is guiding at the trail, checking donation boxes and helping out the docents. Our WCC interns play a valuable roll here at SPSSEG—we truly appreciate them!

Continued from page one...

work, just riparian planting. We did phase one last Spring and phase two this fall, with additional plantings scheduled Spring 2007.

Approximately 2,600 bare root and potted plants were bought with grant money and planted onsite with volunteers and school groups. The objective was to restore and enhance the riparian buffer and associated wetlands, benefiting salmon and native wildlife. Three and a half acres will be planted by next spring. [Teresa Moon, PM, USFWS funding]

Rocky Creek Barrier Replacements (Robinson & McColm)

We replaced barrier culverts on two driveways crossing over a tributary to Rocky Creek. This opened up 8,600 feet of habitat. [Kristin Williamson PM; FFFPP, LIP]

Huge Creek Bridge

On this tributary to Minter Creek, we replaced a failed concrete culvert with a full span, pre-fabricated Big R steel beam bridge, improving access to over three miles of habitat. [Kristin Williamson PM; FFFPP, LIP]

Mason County

Little Skookum Valley LWD

Upstream of a 2005 culvert replacement, we placed LWD and native vegetation, enhancing 900 feet of degraded creek. [Lance Winecka PM; SRFB]

Malaney Creek

In partnership with Mason County, we replaced a full barrier culvert, opening up 2.5 miles of habitat for salmonids. [Lance Winecka PM; SRFB/Mason County]

Sherwood Berm

A berm was created about 60

years ago to protect shellfish beds from the freshwater of Sherwood Creek. We obtained funds from NFWF and South Sound Fly Fishers to remove the berm, restoring much of the natural estuary. [Lance Winecka PM; South Sound Fly Fishers, NFWF]



Schneider LWD

**Thurston County**

Schneider LWD

This project placed 21 logs,

removed several tons of in-stream concrete and placed 1,500 cuttings and plants in the riparian buffer along 2,000 feet of Schneider. Placement of large woody debris (LWD) is becoming one of the best ways to reintroduce habitat into the stream for spawning and rearing of salmon.

[Lance Winecka PM/ NFWF]

Perry Creek Repair

We replaced a total barrier culvert on Perry Creek in Summer 2004. Heavy winter rains of 2005 and 2006 caused the log weirs to fail. We tried several methods to repair the weirs; this summer, we removed them, placed boulders at the toe of

a slough and reintroduced gravel to the creek bed. [Lance Winecka PM; DOE-CPF).

Continued on Page 5...

**GOOD BYE TO OUR  
2005-2006 WCC INTERN  
GENEVA KARWOSKI**

Geneva joined us October 2005 as our second-year Washington Conservation Corps Intern (WCC). She fit into our work group wonderfully with her great smile, joy of life and get-things-done attitude.

During her stint here at SPSSEG, Geneva spent a lot of her time at the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, doing nearshore survey work with Kristin, helping Teresa with the Mashel monitoring (and broke her finger in a fall!), volunteer plantings, education/outreach and worked with another WCC intern doing demonstrations on healthy water in our local schools.

Geneva—Thanks for all your hard work and support. We miss you!



## Wild Salmon Forever

Carl Jeffrey Cederholm (June 30, 1943 - August 15, 2006)



The Northwest lost a passionate advocate for wild salmon when Jeff Cederholm passed away late this summer.

Jeff dedicated 34 years to protecting wild salmon through his research at the Washington Department of Natural Resources, his teaching position at the Evergreen State College, his role in creating the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail and the infectious enthusiasm he shared with others.

In an article for the September 1993 issue of *Fly Fisherman*, Jeff wrote: "Each year I pause and reflect on my career as a salmon biologist. I think of the beautiful streams and rivers I have had the privilege to study. And always I ask myself, 'Who speaks for the salmon?' My answer: 'People just like me.'"

As a research biologist, Jeff shared his knowledge with colleagues in watersheds throughout the northern hemisphere where salmon live and die. His research expanded our understanding of the importance of salmon carcass nutrients for wildlife and ecosystems, as well as the processes needed to conserve wild salmon and their habitat. "Wild salmon forever" was his motto and the greeting on his answering machine.

Jeff was deeply committed to his graduate students at the Evergreen State College, many of whom have gone on to become the next generation of salmon biologists and policy-makers. The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail started as one of Jeff's ideas sketched on a napkin. He went on to advise the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group during development of the trail and provided memorable training sessions for the earliest volunteer Trail Guides.

For his contributions, Jeff was

recently awarded the Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award. His family traveled to Lake Placid, New York, to receive it on his behalf.

Born in Massachusetts, Jeff grew up in a military family and lived in many places throughout the U.S. and overseas. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Washington (UW), and, in the course of his career, worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service, the UW Fishery Research Institute and the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Jeff and his wife, Katie, were married in 1965 and raised four children. Family time, baseball, golf and outdoor carpentry enriched the days of his private life.

Jeff passed away at home surrounded by his family on August 15, 2006 after a three year battle with brain cancer. Many people have shared their memories of him at [www.funeralalternatives.org](http://www.funeralalternatives.org).

Please log on and read their stories and feel free to share your own. 

### Bridge Over Little Fiscus Creek Dedicated to Jeff Cederholm

Jeff Cederholm sketched a picture—trails with outlooks over the creek, where children and adults could watch nature at its best—wild, spawning salmon.

The people he shared it with got caught up in his excitement and enthusiasm—a common response when being around Jeff. SPSSEG staff and board members took Jeff's idea and ran with it. The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail was born.

Through the initial efforts of Brian Abbott, Sally Hicks, the Taylor family and many more too numerous to mention, small grants were obtained to contact landowners, obtain further grants and partner support and, finally, designs for the trail.

#### Jeff Cederholm Memorial Bridge

*"WILD SALMON FOREVER"*

Carl Jeffrey Cederholm

June 30, 1943 - August 15, 2006

*Dedicated to a passionate  
advocate for wild salmon  
November 12, 2006*

It took a while. Five years of planning before the dedication ceremony at the newly constructed trail on November 17, 2000. One of a kind in the Pacific Northwest, the educational salmon trail was open for visitors.

The trail has been open now for six years during the chum salmon run in November. Last year, 2005, we had 3,017 visitors on six weekends and 2,650 school children and their chaperones

during the weekdays. They saw 50,000 salmon spawning, striving upstream and dying—nature in the wild.

Jeff passed away this last August due to illness. He is sorely missed in our salmon world. The staff and board of SPSSEG have dedicated the bridge over Little Fiscus creek to Jeff in memory of his enthusiasm, passion and dedication to wild salmon.

Come out to the trail—visit the salmon, learn about their life cycle and habitat; appreciate what special things we have right here in our backyard.

And say 'hi' to Jeff—his ashes are spread at the six cedars near Station 6 and in the creek.

His spirit is alive there, and in the hearts of those who knew him. 



McKenna Creek Culvert Barrier



New McKenna Creek Culvert

Continued from Page 3...

**McKenna Creek Culvert Replacement**

A perched culvert barrier was replaced, opening access to two miles of McKenna Creek and reconnecting a 12 acre spring-fed wetland. [Teresa Moon PM; SRFB]



**Summer 2007 Construction Projects Planned**

Yes, we've just finished up a slate of construction this summer, and we're already looking at the schedule for Summer 2007. It's a year-round cycle—find funding (year-round); start engineering (summer-fall prior to construction); begin permitting process (usually fall-winter); go out to bid for construction (no later than May of construction year); and manage the construction contracts.

Our fish window for construction is about three months— June 15 through September 15 (with exceptions for some watersheds and Nearshore). These are the projects staff have already been working on for two or more years, and we plan to construct them Summer 2007.

**WRIA 10/12**

Silver Creek Dam Removal (Lance)  
Sheras Falls (Kristin)

**WRIA 11**

Mashel LWD (last two) (Teresa)  
Powell Creek Culvert Removal (Teresa)  
Nisqually Pines Culvert Replacement (Teresa)

**WRIA 14**

Frye Cove Bulkhead Removal (Lance)  
Hiawata Culvert Replacement (Lance)  
Little Skookum Inlet Estuary (Lance)

**WRIA 15**

Rocky Creek III Barrier Replacement (Kristin)



**Show Your Support! Join SPSSEG Today**  
**A One Year Individual Membership is Only \$15**  
**and is tax deductible.**



**South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/St./Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

- ◇ 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 (360) 412-0808

**NEW!! SPSSEG Fleece Vests—Get Yours Now**

SPSSEG now has fleece vests with our logo embroidered on the left front. Sizes available are adult M, L and XL in a soft forest green.



The cost is \$45 and all proceeds go to help support our group and salmon recovery in the South Puget Sound. With your \$15 membership, you will get a discount on the vest for a cost of \$38.

We also have cream t-shirts printed front and back and tote bags, too. Please e-mail or call if you are interested.



## Mashel LWD Monitoring

By Teresa Moon

Since 2002, the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) and the Nisqually Tribe have been using the *Timber-Fish-Wildlife (TFW) Monitoring Program Methods* (Pleus et al. 1999) to complete effectiveness monitoring on the lower 1.6 miles of the Mashel River, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. A watershed analysis, completed on the Mashel River by the Department of Natural Resources in 1997, found the lower reach of the



Data collection by snorkeling

Mashel River lacking in quantity and quality of pool habitat and substrate. The wood quantity was also found to be poor-to-fair with most of the wood not influencing the channel.

In 2004, SPSSEG and the Nisqually Tribe added Large Woody Debris (LWD) to the Mashel River in an effort to diversify the habitat for salmon. The project involved the placement of seven log jams in the lower 0.7 miles of the Mashel River in August 2004. Large supplemental riparian plantings were also a part of this Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project. LWD was strategically placed in this reach to help promote gravel sorting, pool creation, increase cover and reduce bank erosion. The wood placement is expected to benefit multiple life stages of Chinook, coho and steelhead trout.

To determine changes in river morphology and salmonid abundance due to the LWD placements, an effectiveness monitoring plan was developed prior to the habitat enhancement project. Changes will be determined by comparing data collected in the treatment reach and the control reach before and after the LWD placement. The Mashel River effectiveness monitoring plan will test the following alternative hypotheses:

1. LWD addition will result in increased LWD retention for treatment reach.
2. LWD addition will increase overall habitat diversity in treatment reach.
3. LWD addition will increase holding, spawning, and rearing habitat in treatment reach.

Reference point surveys were conducted in 2002. LWD, habitat unit, Chinook redd counts and juvenile abundance surveys were conducted in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 to test these hypotheses. Surveys will continue to be completed each summer to compare the changes in the data prior to and after the LWD placement.

A report that presents the first results from the effectiveness and validation monitoring—spanning the years before construction (2002-2004) and the first year after the addition of LWD (2005)—is completed and can be found on the SPSSEG website, [www.spsseg.org](http://www.spsseg.org).

Based on the monitoring data collected to date, it appears that the addition of LWD has been successful and that the original objectives of the project are being met. The LWD

addition appears to have increased LWD retention, overall habitat diversity, scour and gravel sorting.

There has also been an approximate 50% increase in the abundance of juvenile salmonids in the treatment reach and the number of adult salmonid spawning has also increased in the treatment reach versus the control reach.

Localized changes to the log jams and the areas surrounding them were noted during the habitat and LWD surveys—the number of pieces of wood in the log jams has increased by 93% from 2004 to 2005.

Based on 2005 observations, log jams 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 have started sorting gravel and have gravel bars forming behind them. Log jam #1 has created a pool where data collected previous to log jam installation showed there was a riffle. Log jam #3 has also created a run that was previously a riffle. The other log jams have not changed the habitat enough to call them pools yet, but it is apparent that the riffle habitat is being diversifying and will eventually become run or pool habitat.

The first year of implementation monitoring indicates the log jams are performing successfully and recruiting wood and diversifying the habitat as expected.

A project funded through the SRFB (January 2005) continued our efforts to increase LWD in the Mashel River. This project, completed Summer 2006, added several engineered log jams (ELJ's) in the Mashel River within the Eatonville area. The effectiveness monitoring has been expanded to include this reach of the Mashel also.

Please contact Teresa Moon at 360-412-0808 if you would like more details regarding the monitoring protocols, SRFB projects, or data collected.





## Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail—It Keeps Going Strong By Lance Winecka

The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail had another fantastic year in 2006. Many adults and students braved the unusual weather this fall to observe chum salmon spawning in this productive lowland stream. While chum spawning remained heavy, the trail was closed to visitors several times due to rain, wind and snow. The recent flood waters and snow wreaked havoc in the South Sound, but it didn't seem to bother the fish at Kennedy Creek very much. With the higher water, chum actually entered Fiscus Creek by November 5; about a week earlier than past runs.

This year there were several scheduled events that, hopefully, made your trail experience better. As usual, we had a great group of volunteer docents on the weekends to help manage the trail for visitors. We also held the second Kennedy Creek Conservation Day, showcasing several local salmon groups including Mason Conservation District,

Thurston Conservation District, WSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Trout and SPSSEG. The following weekend, Dr. Joel Elliott, from the University of Puget Sound, was on hand to show live underwater video of chum spawning. In total, nearly 3,000 people walked the trail and we appreciate each and every visitor.

It is always sad to say goodbye to our chums of Kennedy Creek. But remember, they will be back in force again next year...as will the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. So please, make the effort to visit the trail again next fall and bring a friend!

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group would like to especially thank the Puget Sound Action Team for providing grant funds to develop more education curriculum and provide staff time for Karin Strelieff at Mason Conservation District. With this grant, we developed an in-classroom component, providing hands-on training in salmon life cycles—including dissections—directly to

students in our three county area.

Thanks so much to everybody involved for making the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail a huge success. Please



Chum salmon on Little Fiscus Creek

remember that our SPSSEG winter Annual Meeting raffle on February 1<sup>st</sup> supports the trail. So don't forget to buy your winning raffle tickets during the Annual Meeting.



### ***ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 1, 2006***

It's time for our annual membership meeting, in a new venue this year. We'll be at the Lacey Community Center (Pacific Avenue) from 6:00 pm—9:00 pm. Snacks and drink (beer & wine) will be offered, along with raffles, friends and fun!

**John Dodge**, Environment reporter for *The Olympian*, will be our guest speaker—come hear the print media's perspective of their role and opinion on the health of South Puget Sound.



### SPSSEG Projects funded in Round 7 of SRFB Funding

- Greenwater LWD, WRIA 10, \$500,000
- Mashel River Development, Phase III, WRIA 11, \$76,112
- Little Fish Trap, WRIA 13, \$191,000
- Frye Cove Park Bulkhead, WRIA 14, \$69,000
- Walker Boat Ramp Removal, WRIA 14, \$19,000
- Pirate's Cove, WRIA 14, \$101,000
- WRIA 15 Nearshore Project Development, \$85,000



## THE HEALTH OF PUGET SOUND— Ongoing Efforts By Numerous Partners—By Lance Winecka

Over the past few months, the health of Puget Sound has become headline news in the media across the region and the country. Politicians and scientists are trying to figure out what is happening to the beautiful waters and shores of Puget Sound. Looming in everyone's mind are the staggering water quality problems in Hood Canal—low dissolved oxygen levels and dense bacteria mats—that are feared could someday impact the South Sound, destroying our wildlife and threatening the health of not only the Sound, but the people who enjoy its beauty.

Some suggest that without a strategic plan, goals, or direction, the Puget Sound is likely doomed to follow the downward spiral Hood Canal is currently battling.

There are a variety of studies, grants and regional and local partnerships that

are being developed to combine forces and try to find solutions to the declining health of the Sound. Governor Gregoire has pledged funds and staff to find answers by the year 2020. This endeavor will obviously take years to develop and will rely heavily on the willingness of people to do their part to protect and enhance the area. With the expected population increases over the next few years, it will be a challenging effort to support.

This whole process may seem daunting—and many local groups are already focusing projects in the nearshore environment. SPSSEG has recently met with other organizations and have begun to develop many on-the-ground restoration and assessment projects. Several projects have already been identified and funded by various

agencies including the SRFB, USFWS, NFWF, WDFW, and other non profit groups. These partnerships are important because we leverage those funds to obtain additional grants and provide more exposure to good nearshore restoration projects.

There is no doubt that it will take time and patience to preserve and protect Puget Sound. It is also important to remind ourselves that there is still a need for beneficial freshwater projects in our watersheds—concentrating on just one type of project will not achieve overall health. Fish rely heavily on both fresh and marine environments. Hopefully, the decisions made today will turn out to be the right ones for our Puget Sound in the future.

To find out more on current nearshore projects, collaborations and partnerships, plan to attend SPSSEG's annual meeting on February 1, 2007. Environmental reporter, John Dodge, of *The Olympian*, will speak on the media's involvement and role in protecting our Puget Sound. 



Landowner & SPSSEG staff

## SalmonGram

**South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group**  
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### *Inside This Issue:*

- Summer Project Wrap Up
- Board Elections
- Jeff Cederholm Tribute
- SPSSEG Vests Available Now!
- Mashel Monitoring
- Kennedy Creek—2006