

# *SalmonGram*

*The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Newsletter*

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## *Board of Directors*

*The SPSSEG is administered by a nine-member volunteer board elected by the general membership.*

Joe Williams — President	
Sally Hicks — Vice President	
Dan Wrye — Treasurer	
Bill Graeber	Duane Fagergren
Terry Wright	Tim Layton
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## *Staff*

Lance Winecka — Executive Director
Christine Garst — Accounts Manager
Kristin Williamson — Project Manager
Eli Asher — Project Manager
Kimberlie Gridley — Project Manager
Sarah Clarke — Office Assistant

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### *On the cover:*

A rare sunny fall day kept volunteers' spirits high during a riparian planting on Horn Creek near Eatonville. Photo by Kimberlie Gridley.

## *Message from the Executive Director*



As we begin a new year in salmon recovery I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our members, stakeholders, partners, and funding agencies for your continued support of the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG). Since our creation in 1991 we have cooperatively implemented over 140 successful projects, restoring miles of degraded salmon habitat in and around the South Sound. SPSSEG is excited to better define, improve, and expand our role in the upcoming regional Puget Sound recovery plan. We are prepared to implement freshwater and nearshore projects that fit the needs of both salmon and people. Our goal is to work with diverse partners to make a significant difference on the ground.

SPSSEG takes pride in our mission to "increase salmonid populations in South Puget Sound through habitat restoration and community education." To better assist our goals we have recently partnered with a consultant to help us implement a new corporate sponsorship program. This program will identify donors that increase, diversify, and leverage our overall funding capabilities. We are looking forward to working with the corporate community.

During 2008 we hope to expand our education and outreach program. SPSSEG has prepared a new plan to improve our volunteer recruitment and provide people with more diverse opportunities for education and outreach. We will also continue to host the popular Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail along with Mason Conservation District and will explore options to expand the newly developed Sound Gardens Save Salmon program. Please be on the lookout for future updates.

If you are interested in learning more about SPSSEG and the type of services that we provide please attend our Annual Meeting on January 24, 2008 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Lacey Community Center. The keynote speaker will be Jean Takekawa from the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. She will showcase their 700 acre estuary restoration project. There will also be a "year in review" presentation by SPSSEG staff. Any person interested in salmon recovery is welcome to attend.

SPSSEG has built a positive reputation by completing meaningful salmon projects and working together to make a difference. We are looking forward to another successful year in salmon recovery.

Lance Winecka - SPSSEG Executive Director

SalmonGram is published twice per year by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG), a 501(c)3 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.

# Nearshore Updates!

*Nearshore projects are increasingly prominent in SPSSEG's annual project lineup. Here are a few of the many projects that are in progress in 2008:*

## *Assessments/Project Development*

Project Manager Kristin Williamson has been coordinating surveys, collecting samples, mapping data, and prioritizing potential projects along South Puget Sound's shorelines for the last two years, and is currently working on a draft report to provide guidance to WRIA 10/12 project partners. Her preliminary findings have built upon previously known forage fish spawning locations and will aid in restoring eelgrass beds and pocket estuaries. Together with several key partners (Nisqually and Squaxin Tribes, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, WDFW, Pierce County, and others), Kristin will continue to provide sound scientific rationale for SPSSEG's nearshore projects for many years.

SPSSEG has been targeting local Puget Sound nearshore restoration since 2005. We have been successful in

## *Pirate's Cove Restoration*

Pirate's Cove is located near Grapeview on Case Inlet. SPSSEG is working to restore the historic configuration of a sand spit that protects a deep tidal lagoon. The local community is fully involved in the project; several local residents have spent 100 hours or more on the restoration and enhancement project, and the entire community receives frequent project updates through a local liaison from SPSSEG, partner organizations, and the project engineer. The project is designed to benefit salmon, but includes consideration for shellfish, water quality, community recreation, local geomorphology and weather patterns. The project, which is funded primarily through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, is scheduled for construction during the summer of 2008 under the careful eyes of Eli Asher, SPSSEG's habitat restoration project manager.



identifying beneficial opportunities and obtaining grant funds to implement several projects. SPSSEG is working cooperatively with private landowners and stakeholders to successfully restore critical nearshore habitat needed by salmon populations. If you live on the shorelines of South Puget Sound and have an idea for restoration on your property please give us a call to schedule a site visit. Our primary focus areas are removing bulkheads, improving estuaries, and restoring natural process.

Pirate's Cove (WA Dept. of Ecology photo)

## *Shoreline Community Outreach*

At heart, SPSSEG is a community-based organization. Following that model, Kimberlie Gridley and Kristin Williamson are developing a framework for community involvement in monitoring nearshore habitat conditions between Pt. Defiance and the Nisqually River. Volunteers will be involved in data gathering to develop baseline conditions for long term monitoring of restoration projects. This will give volunteers an inside look at Puget Sound restoration, while boosting local efforts to improve our local nearshore ecosystems. Look for volunteer opportunities with Kristin and Kimberlie this spring!

## ***The South Sound Nearshore Poster has arrived!***

In partnership with People for Puget Sound, South Sound Flyfishers, and the Squaxin Island Tribe, SPSSEG is pleased to offer full-sized (24" x 36") posters with the graphic featured in this issue's centerfold.

Ordering details on page 7.

*Questions about nearshore restoration? Do you have a project you would like to suggest? Please call us! (360) 412-0808*



# Back to Nature: Rest

*The aquatic creatures that sustain us and give us life offer much more than mere physical nourishment; they provide spiritual sustenance as well.*

- Squaxin Island Heritage Committee

Sand lance

Surf smelt

**Beaches** range from steep cliffs to gentle slopes. All are important. Bulkheads can damage beaches by increasing erosion or blocking sand from entering the Sound, damaging bait

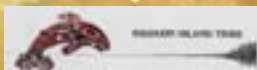
**Estuaries** are lagoons where freshwater and saltwater mix, creating a nutrient-rich environment for many animals. Most So

**Nearshore Forested Areas** provide fringe habitat for a variety of wildlife. Overhanging vegetation provides terrestrial insects, an important food source for juvenile salmon.

Shorebird feed in

Manila clam

**The Nearshore Environment** includes bluffs, salt marshes, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, kelp forests, and eelgrass beds. From the upland forested shore to as deep in the water as sunlight can reach, this system is directly influenced by tides, wave action, runoff, and land use practices. Nearshore habitat is a critical leg in the salmon's journey to and from the Pacific Ocean. Juvenile salmon prey on smaller fish and hide from larger predators. Here they grow and change from freshwater creatures to smolts able to live in the ocean. Adult salmon swim along the nearshore on their journey home to spawn.





# Restoring South Puget Sound

South Puget Sound faces a two-century legacy of shoreline development and pollution, but countless species rely on nearshore forests, beaches, estuaries, and eelgrass beds for survival. Recognizing these challenges, local residents, governments, and restoration groups are protecting and restoring the Sound.

Cliffs to mud flats, and in damage beaches by sand and gravel from baitfish spawning habitat.

Marine mammals like this harbor seal feed at high trophic levels, accumulating toxins from their prey.

are transition zones: sheltered bays, inlets, and freshwater streams meet and mix with salt water. The environment of the estuary supports many plants and at South Sound estuaries have been severely modified.

Surf scoters and other migratory birds depend on nearshore areas year-round.

shorebirds like this dunlin feed in nearshore areas.

Phytoplankton (tiny plants) use sunlight and waterborne nutrients to grow, and provide food for marine organisms.



## What you can do:

1. Keep waste out of storm drains.
2. Keep shoreline vegetation natural.
3. Use less water.
4. Cut down on pesticides.
5. Pick up after your pets.
6. Maintain your septic system.
7. Be an active Sound citizen.

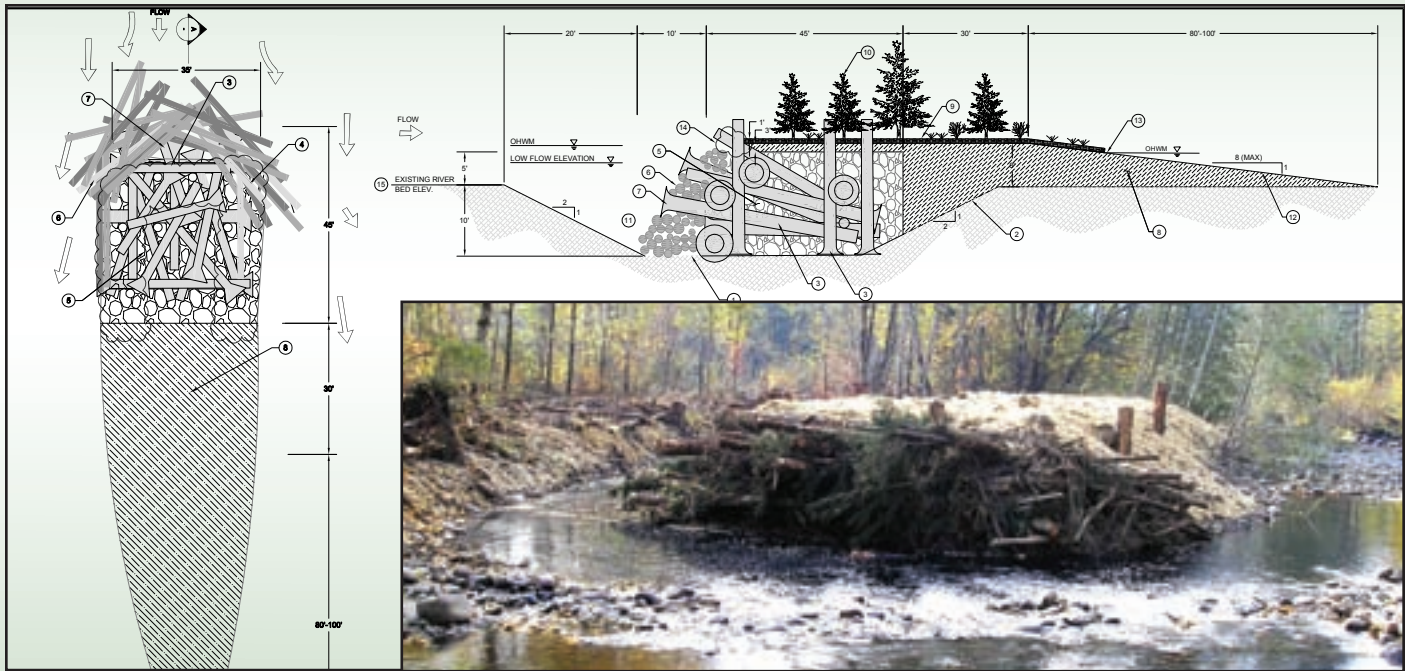


**Eelgrass Beds** thrive on soft, sandy bottoms and are home to crabs, juvenile salmon, and other fish. Herring will spawn directly on eelgrass.



# Large Wood, Big Role...

Large Woody Debris (LWD) installation has become a very popular restoration approach in recent years. From single logs to massive assemblages containing hundreds of trees, large woody debris plays a key role in our Western Washington streams. Large logs known as key members help stabilize channels, and provide cover for adult and juvenile salmon, trout, aquatic invertebrates, and other wildlife. Log jams, whether naturally created or placed in restoration projects, encourage gravel sorting (essential for salmon spawning habitat), fine sediment deposition (keeping silt out of salmon redds), and create stable growing platforms for long-lived evergreen trees.



Engineered Log Jam and designs, Mashel River, Eatonville

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group has a relatively long track record of implementing LWD restoration, starting with several projects in the Upper White River watershed in the early 1990s. Many of these early projects—built by volunteers and on tight budgets—are still providing habitat to threatened runs of spring Chinook and bull trout. In the last decade, LWD projects have expanded from simple designs with single logs to more complex, engineered approaches.

Most recently, SPSSEG completed construction of 13 engineered log jams (ELJs) in the Mashel River near Eatonville. These structures each contain dozens of key members and over one hundred smaller trees and logs. The Mashel project is a successful example of how ELJs can immediately provide high-quality habitat to a river with little natural cover for salmonids, but also a showcase for salmon-friendly development. Four of the thirteen ELJs were placed to stabilize a riverbank adjacent to Smallwood Park that was previously armored with riprap. This has resulted in a more natural appearance, good salmon habitat, and a park safe from the erosive forces of the river.

SPSSEG's upcoming LWD projects are slated for construction during the summer of 2008 in Ohop Creek and 2009 in the Greenwater River. If you (or someone you know) have large quantities of downed timber with access for heavy equipment (six or more large evergreen trees), please contact SPSSEG to learn how your trees can benefit watershed restoration and your tax return!

## Partner Spotlight

The Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to making ecological forestry a paying proposition in the Pacific Northwest. Through programs such as Northwest Certified Forestry and Watershed Innovations NNRG is promoting innovative forest management strategies that improve the health of forest and freshwater ecosystems while increasing economic development in rural communities. This organization is an invaluable resource for forest landowners, manufacturers, and wood products users alike. For more information, visit their website: [www.nnrg.org](http://www.nnrg.org).

## Staff Profile: Kristin "Willi" Williamson

**A** born and bred Minnesotan, Kristin grew up with warm-water fishes like bass, walleye, and northern pike, only to flee The-Land of 10,000 Lakes bound for the bigger, salmon-infested waters of Western Washington. She migrated to Washington in 1998 to attend the University of Puget Sound, where she graduated in 2002 with a B.S. in Biology.

**H**er interest in fisheries was initially sparked by a marine resource management program she attended in the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos. However, she first tried her hand at salmon recovery as a work study student while in school in 2001 for the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. After graduation, she worked as a creel surveyor for WDFW for a season and a fisheries biologist for the Puyallup Tribe for three years.

**K**ristin re-joined the SPSSEG family full-time in 2005 and is proudly continuing her passion of salmon research and restoration alongside her coworkers. As SPSSEG's resident nearshore scientist, Kristin has become an indispensable member of the team. Her work on South Sound shoreline habitat assessments has guided project development and design, and her enthusiasm for public outreach and dirt-under-the-nails restoration work has endeared her to everyone from school children to executive-level project partners.



**W**orking for the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group has been an amazing learning experience for Kristin: "Professional life with SPSSEG is both challenging and rewarding. Working with the salmon recovery community and seeing the results of everyone's collaborative efforts to restore Puget Sound has been encouraging."

**W**hen not working Kristin enjoys traveling, gardening, cooking, hiking and doing anything on the water. She admits most of her free time is spent running around with a black lab named Oli. Kristin also enjoys reading. Her current reading list includes: *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan; *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert; and *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeanette Walls.

**I**n reflecting on 2007, Kristin relayed that her greatest adventure was traveling in Northern India and Nepal for three weeks in November and December.

Kristin can be contacted by email at [kristinw@spsseg.org](mailto:kristinw@spsseg.org) or phone: (360) 412-0808

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

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 6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112  
 Olympia, WA 98516

- ◆ Individual Membership.....\$15
- ◆ Family Membership.....\$25
- ◆ Business Membership.....\$200
- ◆ Corporate Sponsorship.....\$500
- ◆ Other Tax-Deductible Donation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ "Back to Nature" Poster (pick-up).....\$5
- ◆ "Back to Nature" Poster (mailed).....\$15





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*Thanks to all of the Kennedy Creek  
volunteers for another great year!*

*Kennedy Creek 2007 by the numbers:*

- ◆ 52 Volunteers (five new guides this year)!
- ◆ Over 5,100 reported visitors!
- ◆ 92 class visits from 33 schools in three counties!
- ◆ Tens of thousands of returning adult chum!

*We'll see you at the Annual Meeting!  
January 24, 2008 5:30-8:30  
Lacey Community Center*