



SOUTH PUGET SOUND
Salmon
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP

SALMON GRAM



Hello South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Family,

In the Newsletter, we will be highlighting the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. Over the past couple of years, Kennedy Creek has received many updates, including the new signs and updated viewing platforms. We appreciate all the input we have received over the years on how to make Kennedy Creek a welcoming and accessible place for everyone. Our next goal for Kennedy Creek is to update the Fiscus Creek culvert and expand to year-round visitors.

We also just finished our docent workshop and celebrated all the hard work from our docents this year. During the workshop, we focused on how to make the field trip experiences for both students and the docent enjoyable, with the increase in popularity of the trail.

This past quarter, we have had three interns here at SPSSEG. A new strategy at Kennedy Creek is partnering with local colleges, providing internship opportunities to students.



SPSSEG Staff

Executive Director: Lance Winecka

Project Manager: Kristin Williamson

Project Manager: Cole Baldino

Project Manager: Kylie O'Driscoll

Project Manager: Casey Allen

Education Coordinator: Jessica Linkemyer

GIS Analyst & Field Coordinator: Alex Arams

Accounts: Harold Schmidt

Intern: Scout Abbott

Intern: Ada Thulin-Gizzi

Intern: Elias Briggs

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Here is what our interns had to say about their experience at SPSSEG and Kennedy Creek



Scout Abbott

Interning with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group was an eye opening experience. My dad used to be the president and was a co-founder of Kennedy Creek, so working here was a special experience. Learning what the RFEG's do and how they help was an amazing time to have and has helped tremendously with my studies! I got to do a little bit of everything which was wonderful and SPSSEG has a special place in my heart!



Ada Thulin-Gizzi

Seeing the next generation learn about salmon was incredibly rewarding, it took me back to my youth when I went on similar salmon trips with my school. It felt like passing on the torch, planting the seed for ecological mindfulness, a chance to see the circle of life unfiltered. It's sad when the salmon die, but it brings about stability for the forest and for their progeny. I think it's important we have these conversations, and I was so impressed with how students engaged with these heavy concepts.



Elias Briggs

My favorite experience as a docent at Kennedy Creek was seeing the excitement and appreciation the students had for being outside. I learned a great deal over the course of November, and it was rewarding to share my knowledge with the students and community. I loved answering all the students' questions and fueling their curiosity. My favorite memory was holding a salmon egg, and the students formed a circle around me while everyone was asking questions.

KENNEDY CREEK

SALMON TRAIL

This was another great year at the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. There were an estimated 40,000 chum that returned this November. The chum spawning peak was on November 12th with a count of 13,985 chum. The absence of rain in early November caused low water levels in the creek. The last week of November, there was an increase in rain, which helped draw in the last group of salmon waiting in the estuary. We saw an estimated 2,000 visitors during the weekend and weekday, and 2,875 students for the Kennedy Creek Field Trip.

Last year, during another record return year with an estimated 60,000 returning chum, Washington Fish & Wildlife discovered that Fucus Creek's maximum amount of salmon it can hold is 4,000 at one time.



LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE STATS!

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	2,875
TOTAL NUMBER OF WEEKEND VISTORS	1,808
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RETURNING CHUM	40,000

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our amazing docents. Our docents work hard to provide the best experiences on the trail and teach about what it means to be a salmon steward. We wouldn't be able to provide these opportunities to the students without their support. Many of you know this was a vision, created on the back of a napkin by two people, Jeff Cederholm and Brian Abbott. To this day, we carry on that version by protecting salmon habitat and teaching the next generation about the unsung hero in the community, the salmon.



Thank you to all of our supporters off the trail as well! We have raised \$17,972 in donations for the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail.

We would also like to say thank you to the organizations that have supported Kennedy Creek and Salmon in the Schools this year.



GREEN DIAMOND