SalmonGram

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Volume 12 Issue 4 Committed to Restoring South Sound Salmon Habitat Fall 2003

Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail is Right Around the Bend!

CHUM *By Lucia Perillo*

How come we all don't have the luxury of our ghosts?
As in: those paintings of salmon
with the shadow versions of them flying?
License, you might say
For the painter to put dead fish in the sky.
Instead of as they are
when you see them wilting in the eddy:
two tons of major spent-sex stink.

Yet see how everyone skips so giddily around the trail
Eyeballing the spawning from the cedar bridge
As if they're sure they will be cohorts
in the rapture about which the bumper stickers speak.
And we really will ascend someday to swim among the fishes.
See how good we are, all of us
so careful not to kick stones down onto the creek.

I'm just trying to understand how it would be
if we made love one time in our lives
(after days spent on the interstate)
before we lay down to die so publicly in shallow pools?
While the other forms pass by and point
to educate to their frenzied children:

See the odd species. They chose love.

Lucia is a recent MacArthur Fellowship Award winner (2000) and frequently visits the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. She graciously allowed SPSSEG to include her poem in our current newsletter. Her poem CHUM is specifically written about the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. Thanks again for your support Lucia! See you at the trail this fall!

Kennedy Creek is SPSSEG's largest education and outreach project. Taylor Shellfish Co. has donated a 20-year land lease for the trail. The ADA accessible trail is currently in the 4th year of the lease and continues to grow in popularity each year. SPSSEG is always looking for volunteer docents to help teach people about salmon. Volunteers receive free training and can donate their time on weekends or during the week for school field trips. The trail is officially open during the weekends of November, Veterans Day, and the day after Thanksgiving. Typically, the peak of the Kennedy Creek chum run is mid-November. Please call trail coordinator Shelley Kirk Rudeen for more information: **360-754-6464** or SPSSEG: **360-412-0808**. Teachers should call Kirsten Workman to book field trips: **360-427-9436.** This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about chum and participate in a local and unique community event.

Photo by Christopher Ellings

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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 Fisheries Enhancement Groups created in 1989 by the Washington State Legislature. The Regional Fisheries 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 seven directors elected by the general membership.

Terry Wright-*President*
NW Indian Fisheries Commission
Blake Smith-*Vice President*
Puyallup Indian Tribe
Richard Johnson-*Secretary*
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Jeannete Dorner-*Board Member*
Nisqually Indian Tribe
Sally Hicks-*Board Member*
SJH Enterprises
Jen Thurman-Williams-*Board Member*
Kennedy Creek Quarry
Marc Wicke-*Board Member*
Tacoma Power

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.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG)
6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112
Olympia, WA 98516
Phone (360) 412-0808
Fax (360) 412-0809
E-Mail spsseg@spsseg.org

Landowners coming together for salmon!

By Randy Cravey (local landowner)

When the notice of funding for salmon enhancement projects first appeared in the Daily Olympian over two years ago, I never in my wildest dreams thought that our community would now be so close to making this project a reality.

For many years, I have watched the salmon swim up the little tributary off Perry Creek to their final resting ground. For the salmon, the journey ends at an old culvert approximately four feet above the stream bed. I had often contemplated what could be done to allow passage beyond the culvert, so the notice of potential funding was a natural solution.

Suzanne Cravey checks out a recent slump and new root-wad in Perry Creek. Photo by Lance Winecka

When the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group first visited the site, they were very excited about the opportunity to work on this project, and we worked together to submit a funding proposal. Little did I know that my work was just beginning.

We have twenty-five landowners in our community, and we pass over the culvert every day. The real effort has been to forge a consensus in the community that this really is a worthwhile project for salmon enhancement. The major issues that we have had to confront over the last two years include:

- Community participation in the overall cost of the project.
- Traffic issues while the culvert is being replaced.
- Loss of privacy along the creek due to fishery personnel monitoring the stream.
- Long-term commitment for maintenance after the project is complete.

We have met on at least six occasions to discuss these issues. We have had two meetings with SPSSEG to review the engineering designs and to talk about the project. During the summer, we even had an afternoon meeting down at the culvert so everyone could become more familiar with the logistics of the project.

The community will eventually benefit with the replacement of the old, existing culvert. However, the real benefit may come from a sense of community building that has been taking place to make this project a reality. Since our homes are nestled on five acre tracts, our communication is sometimes limited to a quick conversation at the mail boxes or a wave as our cars pass along the road. Never before have we had such an opportunity to discuss and work through these issues and get to know each other better. The ultimate benefit will be that a road maintenance culvert will get replaced while providing access to historical salmon habitat.

Gosnell Creek Bridge is Almost Complete!

By Jason Lundgren

The third round of SRFB funding (2002) proved to be very successful for the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Out of the ten SRFB proposals submitted, nine of them received funding. One of the successful projects was the Gosnell Creek Culvert and Riparian Restoration Project. This project will replace two barrier culverts with a 40' span BIG R bridge and include work with an adjacent landowner to fence and plant along the riparian area throughout his property.

Gosnell Creek is just east of Shelton and runs parallel to Cloquallum Road. The creek supports chum, coho and resident and anadromous trout. Gosnell Creek is a low gradient tributary to Lake Isabella and offers very high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Although funding on this project is tight, we've proceeded after two rounds of construction bidding. Rich Gieger, P.E from the Mason Conservation District, is on loan to us for all engineering services. Designs and permits were completed in the spring of 2003 and a contractor was selected in July to remove the culverts, install a 60' temporary bridge and the permanent bridge. As of mid-September, the footings and the walls were completed as well as all in-stream work (e.g. removal of culverts and placement streambed material). This project opens up over five miles of main stem habitat and over one mile of tributaries.

We are currently waiting for the permanent bridge to be delivered from Colorado. We are planning on installing the bridge the first week of October and removing the temporary bridge the same day. The project will be completed shortly thereafter.

This project will be a model project for me in the future! I had no idea that a project could go so smoothly. The utility companies, landowners, project partners and contractor have all worked together perfectly. In addition, we received an additional financial contribution from the USFWS and the Mason County Public Works Department provided the temporary bridge free of charge. The Mason Conservation District has offered their services for all the plantings associated with the project including riparian planting, fencing, and the revegetation of the disturbed construction area.

Lance Winecka (SPSSEG staff) located this project while working on the WRIA 14 culvert inventory in the fall of 2001. Coincidentally, about the same time the culverts where recognized as fish passage barriers, a resident that lived on Gosnell Creek contacted the Mason Conservation District about a riparian fencing project on his land. The two projects where a perfect match and got local residents involved in stream restoration.

Out with the old and in with the new! Salmon restoration through heavy machinery. Gosnell Creek will benefit from the removal of the undersized culverts. Photo by Jason Lundgren

Puget Sound Pocket Estuaries By Christopher Ellings

Local pocket estuary blocked by a culvert and railroad levee.
Photo by Christopher Ellings

The Puget Sound fjord is composed of a variety of physical shoreline types, ranging from large fan-shaped deltas to steep bluffs, which interact to form habitats crucial to the health of salmon in Puget Sound. The myriad of habitats along the Puget Sound shoreline are utilized as salmon migration corridors, sources of adult and juvenile salmon food production, predator refuge areas, and physiological transition areas (Williams and Thom 2001). Recently, salmon ecology researchers have determined that 'pocket estuaries' are important marine habitats for salmon. Many pocket estuaries are severely impacted by human activities in South Sound. Fortunately, preliminary assessments by SPSSEG and others have revealed a high degree of restoration potential for South Puget Sound pocket estuaries.

The term "pocket estuary" is used to define small estuaries formed behind spits or barrier beaches that have localized freshwater input from creeks or springs (Beamer et al. 2003). Pocket estuaries dot the Puget Sound shoreline and can be easily identified using Washington State Department of Ecology Shoreline Aerial Photos (http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/shorephotos/index.html). In the past, these small estuaries have received very little attention from researchers so their importance to salmon has been underestimated. New research conducted in Skagit Bay (Beamer et al. 2003) and Hood Canal (Hirschi et al. 2003) has documented extensive use of small estuaries by non-natal juvenile salmon (salmon that do not originate from the streams draining into the estuaries).

In Skagit Bay, Beamer et al. 2003 found wild juvenile chinook in pocket estuaries from late winter through spring in densities far greater than offshore (100 times) or nearshore (10 times) habitats. The researchers surmise that pocket estuaries provide rearing and growth habitat as well as refuge from large predatory fish.

A preliminary report by Hirschi et al. (2003) details the findings of their sampling of small "independent marsh" and "tidal creek" habitats (both of which include pocket estuaries). Their data suggests that these small estuaries are important to many species of salmonids. Typically, chinook and chum salmon have been cited as the species which utilize Puget Sound estuaries extensively with coho salmon not strongly associated with estuarine habitats. In a surprise discovery, Hirschi et al. found coho salmon utilizing the small estuaries year round.

Since pocket estuaries are small and understudied, their protection and restoration has often been ignored. Fortunately, this trend is changing with new data highlighting the importance of small estuaries. The estuaries are now considered a high priority for restoration in large scale salmon recovery strategies like the one for Hood Canal and the Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca (HCCC 2002).

Pocket estuaries are susceptible to many different forms of impairment like tidal culverts, stormwater runoff, levees, and development. Through a review of aerial photos, nearshore assessments and barrier inventories, SPSSEG has found many potential pocket estuary restoration projects. We are now actively pursuing pocket estuary projects in WRIAs 13 and 14 and hope to gain funding to address problems in WRIA 12 and 15.

Literature Cited:

Beamer, E., A. McBride, R. Henderson, and K. Wolf. 2003.

HCCC (Hood Canal Coordinating Council). 2002.

Hirschi, R., T. Doty, A. Keller, and T. Labbe. 2003.

Williams, G.D. and R.M. Thom. 2001.

Salmon Shorts

By Cedar Bouta, SPSSEG
Executive Director

October rains and falling leaves are welcoming salmon back to their South Sound freshwater habitats. SPSSEG staff is welcoming salmon back by wrapping up the Gosnell Creek bridge project and preparing for over 5,000 visitors to Kennedy Creek. We're also preparing for future years by writing those pesky permits and grant applications, and planning with our partners for Minter Creek, Malaney Creek, Lower Yelm and Lower Mashel construction in 2004. After passing our first audit with flying colors, we also are celebrating both the responsibilities and rewards that come with putting thousands of dollars on the ground for salmon recovery. As a reminder of what's important, our "Soul Salmon" greets staff and visitors at our new office in Lacey. We hope you'll stop by to see the new office!

WCC Position Available:
Starts February 2004

SPSSEG has a one-year Education and Outreach position available starting in February. The position is sponsored through the Dept. of Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps. You must be 18-25 years of age to qualify. We're looking for an enthusiastic, hard-working person with excellent writing, presentation and people skills. The ideal candidate will have experience in environmental education, school and community presentations, volunteer coordination, websites, publicity, and membership support. Applications will be available December 1. In the meantime, check out www.spsseg.org for a job description.

Annual Meeting: January 22
Mark your calendars!

Last year's Annual Meeting was the largest yet. The auction for Kennedy Creek was such a big hit that we will be adding it to the Annual Meeting agenda again this year. If you were a donor last year – please consider donating again. Artwork, books, fishing rods and trips, native landscaping and gravel all make great prizes. If you purchased one of last year's prizes and haven't collected – please give us a call (360-412-0808).

Perry Creek Tributary Project

Partner Acknowledgments:

SPSSEG would like to thank some important donors throughout the past year: Taylor Shellfish Co., Simpson Resource Company, Fish Tale Brewing, Kennedy Creek Quarry, Seattle Shellfish, Wal-Mart, Steamboat Animal Hospital, and J.J. Brenner Oyster Company.

SPSSEG would also like to thank some other individuals and agencies: Brian Abbott (SRFB), Ron Allison, Roger Bogden (Bogden Engineering), Randy and Suzanne Cravey, Rick Hirschberg (Mason County), Mel & Pat Galivan, Rich Geiger (Mason Conservation District), Jay Kidder (Chinook Engineering), Russ Ladley (Puyallup Indian Tribe), Paul Tappel (Fisheries Consultants), Nisqually Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, WDFW, USFWS, Mason County Public Works, Pierce County Public Works, Mason Conservation District, Pierce Conservation District, and Thurston Conservation District.

We look forward to many more great seasons restoring salmon habitat with the help of your generous contributions and partnerships. THANK YOU from the SPSSEG board, staff and South Puget Sound community!

Minter Creek Watershed Fish Passage Project Update! By Jason Lundgren

SPSSEG received a SRFB grant for $665,000 to remove and replace five fish passage barriers on the Key Peninsula. The focus of this grant is to address several barriers that limit salmon production in the Minter Creek watershed. Three of the barrier culverts are on the main stem and two are on significant tributaries to Minter; Huge Creek and Little Minter Creek. This project is unique in many ways. For instance, we have never completed so many barrier replacements in one watershed, it is our second largest project ever undertaken, and Minter Creek is host to an extremely important scientific study being conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. The study is looking in depth at the reproductive success and overall fitness of hatchery and wild produced coho. The twelve year study is in its third year of monitoring.

Our engineer Paul Tappel, P.E. recently completed engineering designs to the 30% level. He has designed three suitable structures for each site (with cost estimates) in order for the SPSSEG board and project partners to have options before making any final construction and permit decisions.

If everything goes as planned, we will be constructing next summer (2004). We are currently soliciting volunteers to help monitor fish use and plant survival. Please call Jason Lundgren with inquiries: (360) 412-0808.

Clark's Creek Salmon Hatchery near Puyallup

By Blake Smith

To minimize inbreeding effects on ESA listed chinook and hatchery chinook salmon in the Puyallup River system, the Puyallup Tribe has taken the advice of NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) and HSRG (Hatchery Scientific Research Group) and are voluntarily constructing an acclimation and adult collection pond at Clark's Creek. The hatchery will have adequate attraction to reduce straying of chinook released from the Tribe's current hatchery, Diru Creek. Currently, 100% of adult chinook salmon that are produced at Diru Creek Hatchery stray throughout the system since there is not enough water for adults to get back to the hatchery. The new facility will provide the attraction flow necessary for returning adult chinook, thus minimizing the number of hatchery chinook straying onto the natural spawning grounds.

The new $2.5 million facility will also provide early rearing space for White River spring chinook. Although there is adequate space for eggs at Hupp Springs and White River Hatchery, they lack rearing space for juveniles above their respective core programs. By providing space for early rearing of juveniles, the Clark's Creek Hatchery will facilitate full utilization of the three Upper White River acclimation ponds. Moreover, the spring chinook can be marked for monitoring purposes. The newly available rearing space will also allow the juveniles to be reared to proper size before transfer to the acclimation ponds, increasing overall survival to adults. *Continued on page 7.*

Recent Grant Opportunity to Study Budd Inlet Estuaries!

An old spill-way tidal culvert will be researched by SPSSEG and local landowners in Budd Inlet. Approximately two acres of estuary will be reclaimed by this potential "Pocket Estuary" project.
Photo by Jason Lundgren

Project Updates By Lance Winecka

SPSSEG has been busy putting the final touches on several funded projects and developing future projects. SPSSEG recently received $50,000 from the Thurston County Community Salmon Fund to identify and develop four estuary projects in Budd Inlet near Olympia. This project will include 30% designs and obtain landowner approval prior to permit and grant submittals (see above picture for example of potential projects).

Several other SPSSEG projects have been engineered and are ready for summer 2004 construction: *Perkins Creek, Perry Creek Tributary, and Lower Yelm Restoration Project* are all designed and ready to go! *Malaney Creek* and *Little Skookum Valley Creek* in Mason County will be designed this winter with anticipation of summer 2004 construction. The Nisqually Basin will see construction of a LWD project with the *Lower Mashel Enhancement Project* next year.

Three feasibility studies are underway that will produce 18 additional 30% engineered culvert designs. The *WRIA 14 Project Development* has recently identified 10 culverts that will be designed and developed into feasible projects. The *WRIA 13 Project Development* will follow the completion of the *WRIA 13 Deschutes River Basin culvert inventory.*

SPSSEG 2003 - 2004 Calendar

Activity	November	December	January	February	March
SPSSEG General Membership Meeting	General Membership Meeting Nov. 12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Peninsula Light Gig Harbor		Annual General Membership Meeting Jan. 22, 2004 6 - 9 p.m. Sawyer Hall Lacey	SPSSEG Board Elections Feb. 18 6:30-8:30 p.m. NWIFC	
SPSSEG Board/ Staff Meetings	Nov. 5 5:30-8:00 p.m. Puyallup Hatchery	Dec. 3 5:30-8:00 p.m. NWIFC	Jan. 14, 2004 5:30-8:00 p.m. Puyallup Hatchery	Feb. 11 5:30-8:00 p.m. NWIFC	March 10 5:30-8:00 p.m. Puyallup Hatchery
Volunteer Opportunities	Visit Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail Peak Spawning mid-November	Minter Creek Spawner Surveys: Volunteers Needed! Call Jason Lundgren		New Board Members Needed! Call for Job Description	

Board update: Three board members recently welcomed new additions to their families (and to the SPSSEG general membership). Jeanette Dorner, Jen Thurman-Williams, and Blake Smith all have new born babies at home. Congratulations on your new little fishing partners!

SPSSEG will be looking to fill two board positions in February 2004. SPSSEG is a hard working Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) that gets salmon restoration projects done. If you interested in being a board member and participating in local salmon recovery please call Cedar for details (360) 412-0808.

Clark's Creek - Continued from page 6.

Other benefits will be:

- Eliminating egg shortages that occur by establishing the Tribe's own chinook broodstock. The Tribe will no longer have to rely on Washington Department of Fisheries (WDFW) for eggs.
- Freeing up space at Diru Creek Hatchery for other fish rearing programs.
- Increased survival of chinook juveniles released. Currently, chinook released into Diru Creek utilize low water flow (~1cfs).

Furthermore, the lack of hiding cover allows a large percentage of juvenile fish to fall prey to opportunistic predators such as, mergansers, herons, kingfishers, otters, cutthroat trout, and raccoons.

If construction stays on schedule the facility should be in full operation by March 15, 2004 with adult returns expected in fall of 2005.

Adult chinook salmon arriving at a fish hatchery collection pond. Photo by Dave Higgins

SPSSEG Membership Form

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Name _____

Address _____

City/St./Zip _____

Phone : Home _____ Work _____

◊ *Individual Membership*.....*$15*
◊ *Family Membership*.....*$25*
◊ *Business Membership*.....*$200*
◊ *Corporate Sponsorship*..... *$500*

Please return form to:
SPSSEG, 6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112, Olympia, WA 98516

SalmonGram is published three times a year by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

Editor: Lance Winecka

Non-SPSSEG Staff Contributors:

Randy Cravey, *Local Landowner*
Lucia Perillo, *Local Author*
Blake Smith, *Puyallup Indian Tribe Enhancement Chief*

SPSSEG Staff:

Cedar Bouta, *Executive Director*
Christopher Ellings, *Project Manager*
Jason Lundgren, *Project Manager*
Susan Treiber, *Accounts Manager*
Lance Winecka, *Project Manager*

(360) 412-0808
(360) 412-0809 Fax

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6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112
Olympia, WA 98516
www.spsseg.org

Please note our new office location. Stop on by!

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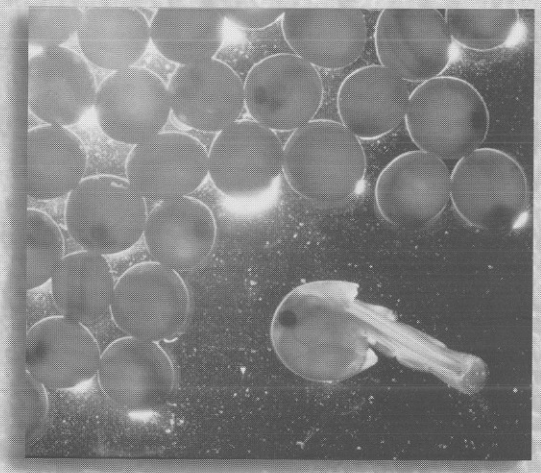

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SALMON IN THE SOUTH SOUND

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) is a non-profit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the restoration of salmon in Pierce, Thurston, and Mason Counties. When it comes to salmon restoration, we get things done!

Our membership includes individuals, families, and businesses that contribute their time and money toward the restoration and enhancement of salmon in the South Puget Sound. We are a non-political organization focused exclusively on public education, landowner cooperation, and on the ground projects that actually help fish.

In the last decade, the SPSSEG has removed dozens of culverts and other fish passage barriers, placed miles of fencing, planted thousands of native trees and shrubs, built fish ladders, restored in-stream habitat, and produced hundreds of thousands of fish. Our public education efforts include the creation of a salmon interpretive trail on Kennedy Creek, outreach to community organizations, and hands-on projects in our local schools.

We want to build on our success. Your participation, whether through the giving of your time or money, will go a long ways toward building healthy and sustainable runs of salmon in the South Puget Sound.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Become A Volunteer

Volunteers are the backbone of the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Hundreds of people each year benefit from the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a difference in the fight to restore salmon. Opportunities exist for people of all ages and it's a great family activity. Contact us today to learn how you can get involved.

Participate As A Landowner

Landowner participation is critical for salmon restoration. Each year we work cooperatively with dozens of private property owners to improve salmon habitat. Through communication and cooperation both the landowner and the salmon can benefit from restoration projects. If you have a stream on your property that you want to restore or protect, give us a call.

Make A Contribution

Because we are a volunteer-based organization, contributions from businesses and individuals can make a big difference. Your financial contribution goes directly towards high-impact, on the ground salmon restoration projects. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, financial contributions to the South Puget Sound Salmon are completely tax-deductible. Your most generous donation can and will make a difference.

We're Making A Difference!

Help Restore Salmon In The South Puget Sound

We are counting on the volunteer services and financial support of people like you. Please get involved by becoming a member and making a contribution today!

SPSSEG
6700 Martin Way East
Suite 112
Olympia, WA 98516

You can count on me!

I will support the SPSSEG by:

- ❑ Becoming a member
- ❑ Making a tax-deductible contribution
- ❑ Inviting the SPSSEG to speak to my classroom, business, or organization
- ❑ Volunteering for a project
- ❑ Helping a stream on my property

Memberships

❑ Individual $15 ❑ Family $25

Donations

❑ $2500 ❑ $250
❑ $1000 ❑ $100
❑ $500 ❑ $Other _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Contributions are Tax Deductible. Please make checks payable to: SPSSEG

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
(SPSSEG)
6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112
Olympia, WA 98516
Phone: 360-412-0808 Web: www.spsseg.org

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