



# In the Flow

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## Streamkeepers Celebrate 10 Years of Watershed Monitoring



The end of this April's monitoring season marks 10 years of Streamkeeper monitoring—a dataset which will undoubtedly be consulted for decades to come. This couldn't have been done without the help of our volunteers, advisors, partners, and funders. Thanks for working so tirelessly on behalf of the critters whose lives are dependent upon our wise stewardship.

## Welcome Volunteers New & Old! Annual Training Begins Soon

With virtually no advertising yet, we already have 15 new volunteers waiting to be trained and put to work. Experienced volunteers are welcome to attend any of our training sessions for a refresher; RSVP.



## STREAMKEEPERS 2009 VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE

DAY/DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	PLACE
Mon., June 22	6-9 pm	Streamkeepers: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How	County Courthouse, Commissioners' Meeting Room, "After-Hours" entrance west of the flagpoles
Mon., June 29	6-9 pm	Volunteer Orientation & Noxious Weed ID training	
Sat. in July TBA	8 am—4:30 pm	Field Monitoring Procedures and Stream Ecology	WestWind Farm, Salt Creek (directions to be given)
	4:30—8 pm	Annual BBQ/Potluck	
Another Sat. in July or Aug. TBA	9 am—4:30 pm	Sampling Logistics, Quality Control & Invertebrate Sampling	Commissioners' Meeting Room (see above) & Peabody Creek

## Streamkeepers' Data Used in EPA's 2008 State Water Quality Report

In early 2009, the WA Dept. of Ecology published its 2008 Water Quality Report, and Streamkeepers has now set a precedent in this state by having its biological assessment data accepted for 303(d) "Impaired" water-body listings under the federal Clean Water Act. This is a big step forward for efforts to protect the State's watersheds, because the best way to comprehensively determine the state of an ecosystem is to look at the living things within it. Our biological assessment data is based on the Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (B-IBI), which assesses the population of invertebrates living in the streambed. For more information on the B-IBI, see

[http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/biological\\_monitoring.html](http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/biological_monitoring.html). Streamkeepers disagreed with Ecology over a number of the listings and criteria; this correspondence can also be seen at the link above. All told, one-third of the Impaired sites listed in Clallam County were identified as a result of Streamkeepers' data; for a table and map of all listed sites, go to: [http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/washington\\_water\\_quality\\_repor.htm](http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/washington_water_quality_repor.htm)

## Mileage Reimbursement Forms Due NOW!

If you intend to be reimbursed for any mileage, you need to turn in the forms ASAP. If you know you'll have mileage in June, please turn in an estimate ASAP. June 30 marks the end of our current WDFW grant, and sadly, we don't have a funding source to reimburse your mileage after that (except for the stormwater project), so carpooling will most definitely be encouraged!



## Program and Related News

### !!! Loss of Funding !!!

We've been notified that we will not receive Dept. of Fish & Wildlife volunteer-program funding for the 2009-2011 biennium. This program has funded our non-staff expenses for 7 of the past 8 years. The stated reason for non-funding was that our overall program better fits the goals of the Dept. of Ecology. However, Ecology doesn't provide funding specifically for volunteer programs, and all our past efforts to receive direct funding from Ecology have failed.

So beginning July 1, we will lack operation and maintenance funding for Streamkeepers' basic quarterly-monitoring program. We should be able to stock up on supplies to keep us going through the end of the calendar year and perhaps beyond, but we will have to immediately discontinue both of the following programs unless another source of funding is secured:

- Processing of benthic macroinvertebrate samples to calculate the B-IBI index of stream health (typical cost about \$7500/year)
- Processing of fecal coliform samples to identify pollution sources (typical cost about \$4400/year)

We'll keep you posted; let us know if you have any ideas.



*Peter Gregory & Robert Knapp*

*Meadowbrook Farm*

*Steve Bengston & Steve Rankin*

*Steve Rankin*

### SK's 2008-09 Stormwater Pollutant Sampling Completed

Thanks to the heroic efforts of numerous individuals, Streamkeepers of Clallam County has successfully completed and surpassed its stormwater-runoff pollutant sampling plan for the Sequim area for "Water Year" 2009 (which began on 10/1/08). Data gathered under this plan will help Clallam County evaluate the nature and extent of stormwater pollutants, in order to better manage stormwater and prevent degradation of the County's water resources. Primary funding for this effort comes through a three-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (For details of the grant and plan, see [http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/stormwater\\_monitoring.htm](http://www.clallam.net/streamkeepers/html/stormwater_monitoring.htm)).

#### During this project, Streamkeepers staff, volunteers, and partners:

- Sampled 7 multi-day storm events
- Went out on dozens of sampling sorties, at all hours of the day and night (including Christmas Eve and a 25th anniversary)
- Performed dozens of reconnaissance and site preparation trips
- Made 7 trips to Kitsap County to deliver samples
- Sent 250 sample bottles for laboratory analysis covering 100 different pollutants (leading to over 1000 data points)
- Made 600 turbidity measurements

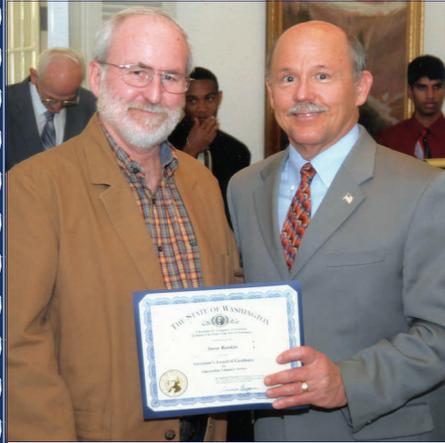
#### Streamkeepers staff would like to thank everyone who helped make this project happen:

- The Stormwater Monitoring Team (particularly super-volunteer **Steve Rankin**—see next page)
- The Stormwater Monitoring Advisory Committee (especially **Carol Creasey**, **Ann Soule**, and **Liz Maier**)
- The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, a partner with Clallam County in the EPA grant (especially **Hansi Hals** and **Lori DeLorm**)
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and WA Dept. of Ecology, who provided funding and technical support
- QFC (Sequim) for donating countless coolers-full of ice (special thanks to **Erin in the seafood department**)
- Peninsula College and its NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program, for providing student interns (see next page)
- Northwestern Territories Inc. for donating a van to transport samples to Kitsap (special thanks to **Shawn West**)
- Volunteers **Walt Johnson** and **Steve Belcher**, who reconfigured the County water database to storehouse the data
- The home of **Steve & CJ Rankin**, large parts of which served as our field-staging and sample-processing area

#### Still To Come:

- Our stormwater sediment sampling plan, which we hope to write, get approved, and implement by early June
- A groundwater sampling project which Clallam County hydrologist **Ann Soule** will lead
- Composing and implementing our stormwater sampling plans for Water Years 2010 and 2011
- Using the data gathered to aid in County land-use planning by correlating stormwater pollution with land use

## Program and Related News



**Steve Rankin: Volunteer Extraordinaire**  
**"For outstanding service to the people and natural systems**  
**of Clallam County"**

**Steve Rankin** traveled to Olympia to receive a Governor's Volunteer Service Award, and then repeated the act with a commendation from the Clallam County Commissioners. Here are excerpts from his nomination text:

"**Steve Rankin** has been a superlative volunteer for Streamkeepers of Clallam County since 2003, dedicating countless hours in difficult conditions to tasks for which the main beneficiaries--fish, wildlife, and future generations--can never thank him. Steve recently has played a pivotal role in Streamkeepers' new joint venture to monitor the impacts of stormwater, with grant funding from EPA and the Dept. of Ecology. Steve has thrown himself

into this task, building equipment, opening his home, and working at all hours of the night to gather data. The project covers 40 miles and 12 sites and can require 200 miles of driving in one day, testing for pollutants such as petroleum, pesticides, metals, and silt, as well as recording a host of other data. Steve then goes home and documents all this activity on his website at [www.serenitysys.com/sk](http://www.serenitysys.com/sk)

Upon learning he had received the award, Steve referred to a saying from his sailboat-racing days: "If the crew comes home and no one is bleeding, then they haven't been trying hard enough. . . . I prefer an occasional minor defeat to spending life in the slow lane." Luckily no blood was shed!

Like an environmentalist mailman, Steve has braved rain, mud, cold, and dead of night to help protect the watersheds that give life to us all. Congratulations for this well-deserved recognition!

**Two New Streamkeepers**  
**Awarded Scholarships at Peninsula College**

Thanks to the Peninsula College Natural Resources Center of Excellence, Streamkeepers has been gifted with the energy and hard work of two new volunteers who've been recognized for their efforts at the College: **Lisa Brown** was awarded the College Environmental Science Scholarship this year. She is in her 2nd year at PC and has applied to the Huxley environmental baccalaureate program which she'll begin in Fall 2009.

**Valli Sanstrom** was awarded the Ed Tisch Memorial Scholarship. She also is completing her AA degree and plans to begin the Huxley program in Fall 2009. Valli had Ed Tisch as a Biology instructor in 1977 and now after a career change has come back to complete her education.

Welcome and congratulations to both of you!



**Steelhead Sighted on Ennis Creek**

Streamkeeper **John Spence** sighted his first adult steelhead on lower Ennis Creek during spring monitoring this year, his first in 8 years of monitoring. Says John, "It's exciting to think our combined efforts over the years may be showing some results; the DOT work on the fish ladder in the Highway 101 culvert, as well as Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's restoration project farther upstream, are to be lauded!"

**Robbie and Jim Mantooth** have confirmed the presence of steelhead on their property which abuts the restored area. Once again, there's evidence that if we give the fish half a chance, they'll figure the rest out for themselves.



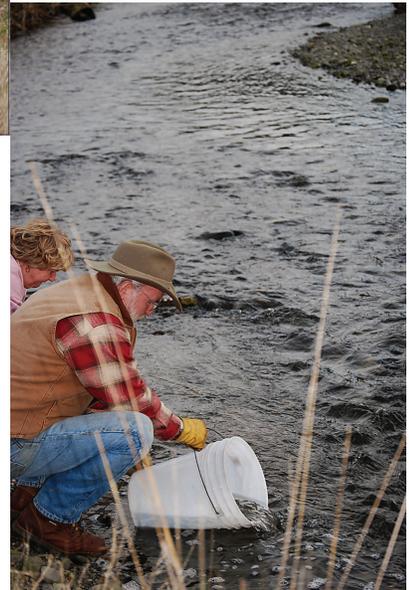
Program and Related News



Photo by Mike Hovis



Janet Bruening



Steve Rankin

**SKers Help with Jimmycomelately Salmon-Recovery Effort**

A record number of approximately 88,000 summer chum fry, from adults spawned last September, were recently released into Jimmycomelately Creek. Twenty-five volunteers, one-third of them Streamkeepers, showed up to help carry this last batch of 28,000 fry to freedom. The buckets weighed over 20 lbs., and several volunteers made 2 or 3 trips up the hill. The fish are now out in the bay and beyond; 1-2% are expected back as adults in 2011 and 2012, along with fish from natural spawning in the creek.

This year the returning adult run was over 1,000. It was the tenth year of the supplementation project, which started in 1999 with a run of 7. This past year saw a good percentage of adults from natural spawning in the recently restored channel. The current plan is to continue giving the numbers a boost for a couple more years and then to step back and monitor the returns to verify that Jimmycomelately Creek has a self-sustaining run of wild summer chum salmon.



**Sequim Area Team Needs You!**

If you're interested in stepping up to lead, coordinate, or participate in sampling on Bell, Johnson, and Cassalery Creeks, please let us know; some key team members have "defected" to the McDonald Creek team!

**Volunteers and Staff Provide Outreach**

- Jan. 14 **Tina Vogel** set up the SK booth prior to a lecture about salmon by Gary Loomis at Sequim High School.
- Feb. 7 **Elizabeth Athair** set up the SK booth at the Darwin Days festival at Peninsula College.
- April 19 **Bob Shaffer** and **Ed Chadd** visited two of **Mr. Lieberman's** science classes at Lincoln H.S., discussing water quality and why it's monitored, and then helping the students measure turbidity in samples they'd collected.
- April 30 **Ed** gave a presentation about Streamkeepers to the morning Kiwanis Club in Port Angeles.
- June 1 **Bob Shaffer** spoke to the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers, assisted by **Lisa Brown** and **Valli Sanstrom**.

## Program and Related News



### Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park's Spring Fling

Similar to a "walk-a-thon," this is one of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park's most important fundraisers. You can participate on your own in one or more activities, e.g., walking and biking. You may also form a team, or join one of our prearranged teams. Simply register, gather pledges, and record your miles covered (or species counted for birds) during the Spring Fling Window, May 10-June 10, 2009.

Join us for the **Spring Fling Frolic**  
Sat., Jun. 20, Time: 3 to 6 p.m.

Help keep the River Center and RR Bridge Park happy and healthy! Join us by walking for wildlife, swimming for salmon, or biking for birds during the fundraising dates, come to the Frolic to celebrate our success.

You can support the cause –  
Railroad Bridge Park, 2151 West Hendrickson Road,  
PO Box 2450, Sequim, WA 360-681-4076  
Website: [rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net)

### Clallam and Jefferson Counties to Reduce Carbon Footprints

According to **Sam Fox**, SK volunteer and associate planner for Clallam County who chairs the County Climate Advisory Group, "It's not so much the direct emissions of the County as acknowledging that what is happening on a global scale is happening here. This is an opportunity that's been presented to us to change our behavior, which we will have to do to reduce our impact on the planet."

### Student Presentations on Elwha Field Studies

**Science Auditorium at Peninsula College (Bldg. M)**  
June 4, Local High School Students, 6:00 p.m.  
June 11, Stevens Middle School Students, 6:00 p.m.

Hear from local middle and high school students as they share their results from field science investigations along the Elwha River. Read more about Elwha River educational opportunities at: : [www.ElwhaScienceEd.org](http://www.ElwhaScienceEd.org)  
For more information, contact Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, Elwha Science Education Coordinator at Olympic Park Institute, at 477-2886.

### Healthy Watersheds Web site

The EPA "Healthy Watershed Initiative" website provides critical information to state and local governments for making strategic decisions to both protect and restore our nation's waters. While significant progress has been made in protecting and restoring water quality under the Clean Water Act, the nation continues to lose healthy aquatic ecosystems. Preserving healthy watersheds will provide the critical natural infrastructure needed to restore water quality. EPA's new initiative is predicated on the simple truth that it is much more cost-effective to protect the many benefits provided by healthy watersheds than it is to restore them once they become impaired. Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/healthywatersheds/>.

### You are Invited to the Hood Canal Summer Chum Symposium

Sponsored by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Mason County Public Works  
100 W. Public Works Drive, Shelton, WA  
Registration is free but required by June 4th.

The Hood Canal Summer Chum Recovery Symposium is a technically-oriented meeting designed for county, state and tribal fish biologists, land-use planners, and habitat specialists; entities implementing or sponsoring habitat projects such as enhancement groups, conservation districts, and local non-profits; Tribal, state, federal and regional agencies tracking recovery activities; and other groups implementing recovery actions in Hood Canal. The purpose of this symposium is to consider progress made on the Summer Chum Recovery Plan, gaps and needs to achieve recovery, and to discuss an adaptive management approach. Contact Renee Stern, Triangle Associates [rstern@triangleassociates.com](mailto:rstern@triangleassociates.com) or (206) 583-0655 or Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council [sbrewer@hccc.wa.gov](mailto:sbrewer@hccc.wa.gov) or (360) 394-0045.

## Program and Related News



Photo of Dungeness River by Mike Hovis

### Remembering Barbara Snodgrass

Barbara, the beloved wife of beloved octogenarian-Streamkeeper D. Snodgrass, died earlier this year. Though Barbara left most of the Streamkeeping to D., she always supported our work and spoke out boldly in protecting the fish and wildlife of this planet. She was not one to mince words! Barbara, we'll do our best to carry on. D. has moved from the "Wild West End" to stay with his family over on the "other side" of the Sound; call us if you'd like contact information.

### Proposed "Clean Water Restoration Act"

Paraphrased from a NY Times article:

The 1972 Clean Water Act was written to protect all the waters and wetlands of the United States. Two unfortunate Supreme Court decisions narrowed its scope, weakened its safeguards and thoroughly confused the federal agencies responsible for enforcing it. As a result, thousands of miles of streams and millions of acres of wetlands have been exposed to development.

The remedy lies in a Senate bill called the Clean Water Restoration Act, which would reassert the broad reach of the 1972 law. Similar legislation has been languishing for years, and if this version has any hope, it will need a strong push from the White House.

Lisa Jackson, new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, agreed last week that the system that has long protected America's waterways from unregulated development and pollution is paralyzed — and will remain paralyzed unless Congress fixes it. An internal E.P.A. report furnished to Congress last year revealed that the agency had dropped or delayed more than 400 cases involving suspected violations of the law — nearly half the agency's entire docket. The reason in every instance was that regulators did not know whether the streams and wetlands in question were covered by the law.

Until the two Supreme Court rulings, the Clean Water Act had been broadly interpreted by courts and by federal regulators to shield all the waters of the United States — seasonal streams and remote wetlands as well as large navigable rivers and lakes — from pollution and unregulated development. The assumption was that even the smallest waters have some hydrological connection to larger watersheds and therefore deserve protection. The Supreme Court, however, exploiting ambiguities in the law, effectively decreed that only navigable, permanent water bodies deserve protection.

As a result, at least 20 million acres of wetlands and as much as 60 percent of the nation's small streams have been left unprotected, while effectively shutting down enforcement actions against developers who have been disturbing or plan to disturb these waters without a permit.

The Clean Water Restoration Act would establish, once and for all, that federal protections apply to all waters, as Congress intended in 1972.

### NEW MAP SHOWS ENORMITY OF STORMWATER PROBLEM FOR PUGET SOUND

People For Puget Sound collaborated with a team of students in the University of Washington GIS Certificate Program to produce the first comprehensive map of existing public storm drains carrying pollutants into Puget Sound. The new GIS map can be downloaded at: <http://pugetsound.org/programs/policy/stormwater>