



In the Flow

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<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/901/Streamkeepers>

360-417-2281

Hello Streamkeepers and friends!

We are getting organized for Spring Quarterly Monitoring in April, and need volunteers. Please let me know your availability, and we can get our stream teams scheduled. Here's an update on Streamkeepers activities.

Winter Quarterly Monitoring

After the snow mostly melted away, we came together for winter quarterly monitoring in January. Many thanks to the volunteers who made that happen! Here's some photos from our adventures in monitoring streams. We had to be careful, since the creeks were full of water.



Morse Creek on January 13th, our monitoring day. Morse Creek was high and fast in January!

How do you measure flow when it's like that, you may ask? We did the best we could under the circumstances. We dropped a small log off the bridge, and volunteers spaced at 100 ft intervals called out when the log zoomed past, so the guy with the stop watch could track the time. We calculated stream velocity at 8.5 ft/sec. Of course, we couldn't measure water depth that day. So we tied a strip of flagging to a root at water level, and plan to return to the site in summer, measure depth, measure height from summer water surface up to the flagging marking winter water surface, and add the numbers to estimate winter depths across the creek. Then we'll have all the numbers we need to calculate flow in cubic feet per second. So we won't know the winter flow until summer!



This is the Lees Creek/Morse Creek team in January: Joel, Karen and Steve White, and Christie Dennis.



Christie measures water quality in Morse Creek with the YSI ProDSS multiparameter meter.



Ennis Creek was beautiful and mystical in January, but with a lot more water than in summer. Paul Rogers measures flow while Christie Dennis takes notes, January 20th at Ennis Creek.



A Western toad volunteers found at Ennis Creek



Jack Word and his nephew Jacob, on their way to monitor water quality at the upper McDonald Creek site. As you can see, there was a little snow left at higher elevations, so we didn't miss out on a wintery monitoring experience!

Pollution Investigation and Correction Program

Our trusty PIC team continues to monitor water quality at 13 creeks once per month, and 9 more once per quarter. The PIC program is working towards finding and correcting sources of bacterial pollution in streams that drain to Dungeness Bay and Sequim Bay. The goal is to improve the water quality in these bays, so shellfish can safely be harvested. This is a collaborative project undertaken by Clallam County Environmental Health, Streamkeepers, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and the Clallam Conservation District. More information is at this [link](#).



Three members of the amazing and magnificent Streamkeepers PIC Team: Linda Sumner, Peggy McClure, and Sarah Miller. The fourth, Bob Phreaner, was the photographer.

Dungeness Reservoir Project Water Quality Monitoring

There are plans to put in a new reservoir by the Dungeness River in the next few years. This reservoir will store water from high flows in winter, and then distribute it out to irrigate farm fields during the dry season. This is a project led by the Clallam County Public Works Department. More information [here](#). Streamkeepers is monitoring water quality in ditches that will eventually go to or from the reservoir. The goal is to find out how the reservoir project affects water quality in the ditches. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer for this project.



The Highland Irrigation Ditch

And lest you think ditch monitoring is all humdrum, here's a photo (below) of the view along the walk to one of our ditch monitoring sites from last June. Summer sunshine and daisies to look forward to in a few months!



View along the walk to the North DNR ditch monitoring site.

Lower Dungeness Floodplains Restoration Project

The lower Dungeness River is constrained by a levee along the east bank, put in to control flooding back in 1963. The problem is that the levee also prevents natural river processes that form side channels and wetlands, important fish and wildlife habitat. This project will set back the east bank levee of the river for almost a mile of the river's length near the river mouth. The existing levee along this stretch will be removed, and a new levee constructed further away from the river. This will expand the flood plain by 112 acres, restoring valuable habitat for fish, shellfish, and wildlife. The project got underway last September, and Scarsella Brothers, Inc. is making progress on the construction work. Streamkeepers monitors to ensure good water quality is maintained during the project, and environmental permit requirements are met.



This new access road coming in from Anderson Road will allow trucks and equipment to get in and work on the new levee.

City of Port Angeles Water Quality Monitoring

We monitored water quality in Peabody Creek and Tumwater Creek monthly in 2021. This is a project to keep track of stormwater inputs and their effects on water quality in Port Angeles Creeks. Streamkeepers does this monitoring under a contract with the City of Port Angeles. When Streamkeepers monitoring identifies a pollution problem, the City of Port Angeles Public Works & Utilities Department staff follows up with additional monitoring to identify the source so it can be corrected.

Joel is working with a new volunteer Paul Pickett to write a report on water quality monitoring in Peabody Creek and Tumwater Creek in 2021. It's nearly complete, and will be available to the public sometime in the next few weeks. We are also working on a new contract with the City of Port Angeles for Streamkeepers monitoring 2022-2026. Due to a gap in funding, monthly monitoring is on hold for the moment, but hopefully will resume soon.



Sue Nattinger and Paul Roberts, two members of the Port Angeles stream monitoring team, by Tumwater Creek.

Hey everyone, I hope you have enjoyed seeing photos of our amazing volunteers at work, and the cool places we go to monitor water quality in the area! By the way, we need more active volunteers, so please get in touch if you would like to be a part of Spring Quarterly Monitoring or any of the other project we have going.

Best Wishes,

Joel

Joel Green

(he/him/his)

Streamkeepers Coordinator

Phone: 360-417-2281

Mobile: 360-325-3979

Email: joel.green@clallamcountywa.gov

Clallam County Dept. of Community Development

