



In the Flow

Winter 2025, Issue 75

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

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Greetings Streamkeepers and Friends,
Happy New Year!

2024 was an eventful year for Streamkeepers. Here's a brief update.

Quarterly Monitoring

In 2024, we continued monitoring water quality and stream flow on 10 local streams. This provides important information for assessing the value of these streams in providing habitat for salmon and trout, and assessing trends over time. We are getting organized for Winter Quarterly Monitoring, and would love your participation! Please send me your available days in January, and we can get the Stream Teams scheduled. Here's a couple photos from quarterly monitoring in 2024:



The Lees-Morse Team in August: Don Taylor, Roy Morris, Nancy Messmer, Joel Green



Intern Brenda Frye measuring Stream flow in Morse Creek in October

Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration Project

The Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration Project is now complete! This multiagency project entailed relocating a portion of the levee further away from the Dungeness River, and reconnected over 175 acres of the historic floodplain. This reduced flood risk and expanded habitat for salmon and other fish and wildlife. New channels through the floodplain that formed during a high-water event in December 2022 have persisted and continue to evolve naturally. Streamkeepers has been involved in monitoring flow and water quality through the newly formed channels in the restored floodplain. Our work showed that more than half of the river's flow regularly flows through these new channels! We'll watch and continue to monitor as the river evolves.



A new river side channel now flows in the former location of Towne Road in October 2024

Pollution Investigation and Correction Project

The Streamkeepers Pollution Investigation and Correction (PIC) team has continued to monitor 20 streams flowing into Dungeness Bay, Sequim Bay, and nearby. This contributes information to the interagency PIC Project, needed to prioritize streams for cleanup to reduce bacterial pollution, with the goal of keeping the bays open for shellfish harvest. In part due to the good work of the PIC Project, there have been no shellfish bed downgrades in the past several years, despite continued development in the Clean Water District area. Here's a big thank you to the Streamkeepers volunteers in the PIC Team!

Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project

This project, still in the planning and development stage, is working towards an off-channel reservoir by the Dungeness River that will accumulate water during the winter, and then distribute it for irrigation during the summer dry season. This will mean more water in the river for the salmon during the dry season. Streamkeepers has monitored water quality in ditches going to and from the future reservoir site to provide baseline data, but this was on hold for most of 2024. After a lengthy planning, review, and approval process, we have now begun sampling again, with an expanded suite of parameters including heavy metals, nutrients, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

City of Port Angeles Stream Monitoring

In 2024, we continued this long-term project to monitor water quality in Port Angeles creeks, with a focus on stormwater inputs and their effects on bacterial pollution and turbidity. We are nearing completion of a report on water quality in Port Angeles streams during the 21-year period 2001-2021. Volunteer Paul Pickett, Streamkeepers volunteer and retired environmental engineer, has been doing amazing work in his data analysis and report writing for the project.



The PA Team Joanie Beldin and Coleman Byrnes measure water quality on Tumwater Creek in May 2024

Website Update

Don Taylor, Streamkeepers volunteer and retired computer scientist, has begun the process of updating the Streamkeepers website. In 2025, expect a whole new look with all the current information!

Database Migration Project

We are working with a consultant Vern Miller to move all our data from the past 26 years into a new SQL database. Former Streamkeepers Coordinator Ed Chadd and volunteers Bob Fitton, Alan Brackney, and Ron Sidwell have been helping Vern understand the complexities of the existing Access database to facilitate creation of the new one.

Streamkeepers Training Videos

Streamkeepers Intern Brenda Frye has been working with me on creating a training video for stream flow monitoring. More training videos are planned. If you sign up for winter quarterly monitoring, I will send you a link to the flow measurement video!

Many thanks to the 32 volunteers who made all of this possible in 2024!

Again, please let me know your availability for Winter Quarterly Monitoring this month.

Thanks,
Joel

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(he/him/his)

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