

Fish and Wildlife PLANNER



A Newsletter for Washington's Professional Planning Community

August 2009

IN THIS ISSUE:

Conferences
Workshops &
Training.....3

Show
Crossdrains
Grant
Opportunities.....4

WDFW Planning
Contacts.....5

Meandering again: Jimmycomelately Creek returns to its natural course

Jimmycomelately Creek is flowing along its natural route again - a route that will benefit wildlife habitat and endangered salmon. But restoring the creek to its natural route was no small task - requiring technical expertise, financial assistance, and work from major partners including the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as a variety of other federal, state, and local agencies and organizations.

“Sedimentation was depositing at the mouth of Jimmycomelately Creek, restricting salmon passage and causing flooding over the banks of the creek,” said Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Habitat Program Manager. “Estuary wildlife habitat was declining due to lack of natural habitat.”

The objectives for this project were “flood hazard reduction and fish and wildlife habitat restoration,” said Randy Johnson, the WDFW Habitat Biologist who worked on the project. To accomplish these objectives “Technical experts recommended the realignment of Jimmycomelately Creek into one of its historic channels, reconnecting the link between the creek and tidal actions of the estuary,” said Byron Rot.

Jimmycomelately Creek and Sequim Bay have long been a traditional hunting, fishing, and shellfishing area for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. “The primary beneficiary will be the summer Chum Salmon who will use the restored Jimmycomelately Creek,” says Greg Fisher, NRCS Forester.

The Tribe began Jimmycomelately Creek and Sequim Bay estuary project in the early 1990s to address problems associated with declining fish populations and increased flooding.

The Sequim Bay estuary has faced many natural resource challenges in the last 100 years. The late 18th century brought logging, road development, railroad construction, and the dredging of waterways. During that time, wetlands were converted, drained, filled and eventually diked. The mouth of the estuary was filled to create a log storage yard along with access roads into the log yard. Jimmycomelately and Dean Creeks were channelized to allow straight drainage into the bay to accommodate the log yard. Straightening of the channel benefitted the logging operation, but was not good for salmon.

The work began by restoring meanders in Jimmycomelately Creek in the summer of 2002 to restore normal hydrology. Woody riparian buffer plantings were established along both Jimmycomelately and Dean creeks, as well. The pilings and structures in Sequim Bay were removed, along with the log yard fill and access roads. A plug was created in the artificial drainage channel segment of Jimmycomelately Creek to divert streamflow into the newly constructed meandering channel.

Please see RESTORATION on page 2



Photo by Randy Johnson

Prior to restoration, flood waters overtopped Old Blyn Highway.



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Applicants name:

Address & phone:

RESTORATION

Continued from Page 1

The restoration of Sequim Bay estuary came to completion three years later, transforming Jimmycomelately and Dean creeks and the estuary into a healthy wetland for fish and wildlife. This project has improved water quality in Sequim Bay by reducing the waste that leaches from the log yard, benefitting a variety of organisms that inhabit the bay. The restored creeks are important spawning habitat for Hood Canal summer Chum Salmon as well as being home to Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and Coho Salmon. In addition, the restored estuary will provide habitat for eelgrass, migratory waterfowl, and several species of clams. In fact, benefits from the restoration are already being realized. For instance the area is currently “receiving heavy use by ducks, geese, and eagles,” said Johnson. Johnson said he has also “occasionally seen seals feeding on the massive numbers of forage fish” that have returned to the estuary.

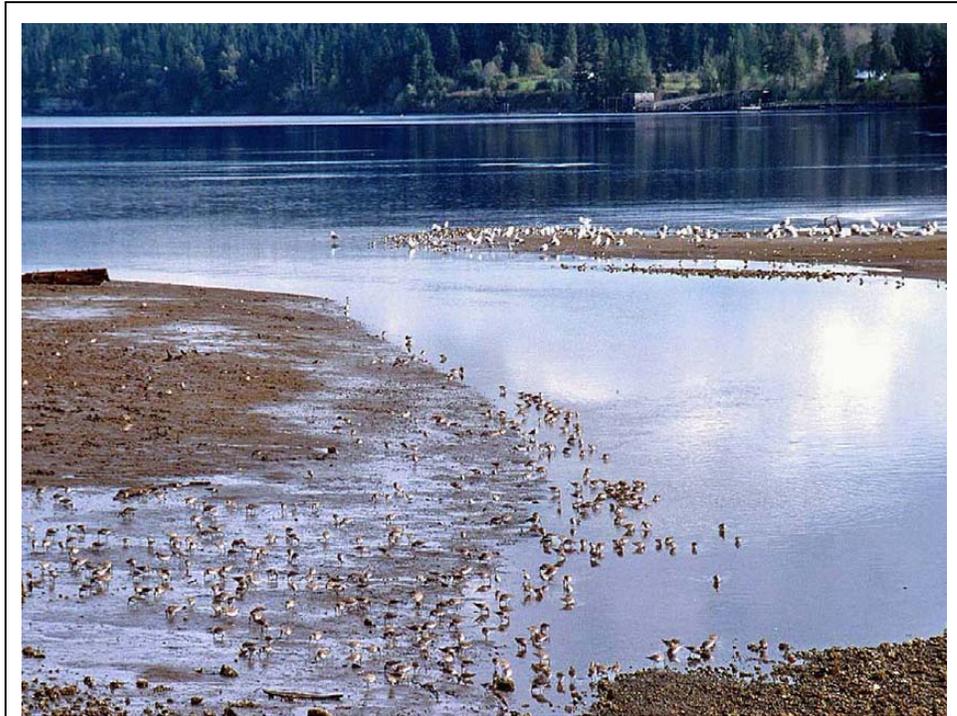


Photo by Randy Johnson

Shorebirds feeding near the mouth of Jimmycomelately Creek.

“The project’s success was entirely dependent upon the enormous level of cooperation between landowners, the Jamestown S’Kallam Tribe, and numerous federal, state, and local agencies. I haven’t ever seen this level of cooperation before or since,” Johnson said. “This is an example of how it can be done – of how to bring back this water system to a healthy standard – all while being respectful of the environment,” says Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Chairman/Executive Director Ron Allen.

This article is part of a continuing series in the Fish and Wildlife Planner to give examples of groups that have been successful in biodiversity planning in Washington. Much of this article was originally written and published by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. WDFW was given permission to modify their article for use in the Fish and Wildlife Planner.

Conferences, workshops & training

- **2009 Washington Planners' Forums:**

Fall Forums

- Oct 15 – Southwest Wash. – Location TBD, Vancouver.....Email Contact: [Joyce Phillips](#)
- Oct 16 – Olympic Peninsula – Location TBD, Poulsbo.....Email Contact: [Tim Gates](#)
- Oct 21 – Northwest Wash. – Location TBD, Bellingham.....Email Contact: [Doug Peters](#)
- Oct 28 – Eastern Wash. – Big Bend C.C., Moses Lake.Email Contact: [Dee Caputo](#)

Forums provide an opportunity for planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to talk about local issues, share ideas, and receive updates from state and federal agencies whose work may affect land use. Date and location are subject to change, so make sure to email to the forum contact prior to attendance. Email the contact person for a copy of the agenda for upcoming forums.

- **Natural Areas Conference**

The Hilton Vancouver Washington will be the site of the 36th Annual Natural Areas Conference. Hosted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Areas Association, the conference will examine the many *edges* in conservation land management, including edges for species, habitats, human society and the earth. This conference will take place from September 15 – 18.

- **Pacific Salmonid Recovery Conference**

This conference provides participants with current fisheries science, regulatory updates, and innovative strategies for assessment, restoration, and monitoring of salmonid populations and their habitat. It is a gathering for professionals working to restore healthy salmonid populations. The conference agenda is comprised of presentations from leading scientists, policy makers, and practitioners. This conference will take place at the Warren G. Magnuson Park on October 28 –30.

- **Water and Land Use in the Pacific Northwest; Integrating Communities and Watersheds**

This regional conference merges the best available water science and land-use knowledge to promote collaboration between scientists, planners, and decision-makers on sustainable land-use methodologies. This conference will take place at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington on November 4 –6.

- **American Planning Association – Washington Chapter Regional Conference**

Save the date! This annual conference will take place at the Hilton Vancouver Washington Hotel on November 12 –13. The theme for this year's conference is "Changing Landscapes: Past, Present, and Future."

- **Coastal Management Courses**

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a coordinated effort between several agencies to provide practical, science-based training to professionals who make decisions about coastal management in Washington. CTP offers valuable courses for shoreline planners and coastal resource managers. The upcoming course schedule can be found on [CTP's](#) website.

- **Short Courses/Planning Education**

Free three-hour workshops explain the legal basis of planning in Washington, basics of comprehensive planning and implementation, and the role of planning commissions. The upcoming schedule is on the [Washington Department of Commerce's](#) website. Courses are scheduled at the request of communities and are open to the public. Everyone who attends receives a course manual. Call or email [Janet Rogerson](#) with questions at 360.725.3047.

Grant opportunities

- **Water quality grants and loans**

The Washington Department of Ecology administers an integrated funding program to fund projects that improve and protect water quality. Each year, Ecology's Water Quality Program accepts applications from cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and some qualified non-profits seeking financial help to improve or protect water quality in their communities. To make the process simpler and more efficient, Ecology allows applicants to submit one application for all possible funding sources. The application period runs from September 1 – December 1. Application workshops are currently being scheduled. Question about this program can be directed to Jeff Nejedly at jnej461@ecy.wa.gov
- **River restoration grants**

American Rivers, through its partnership with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, provides funding for dam removal or fish passage projects to individuals and organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and tribal governments; and other commercial and non-profit organizations. The partnership funds projects that benefit anadromous fish and support the restoration of habitat for anadromous species. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1 of each calendar year. Direct all questions to Serena McClain at rivergrants@AmericanRivers.org.
- **Get your community involved in watershed restoration**

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports science-based watershed restoration initiatives that demonstrate strong community engagement and strive to implement a long-term restoration approach. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$40,000 annually for up to a 10-year period. BEF accepts letters of inquiry on an open basis, and there is no official cycle for the review and solicitation of proposed Model Watershed Projects. Any individual, organization, tribe, or local government in the Pacific Northwest may submit a letter of inquiry.
- **Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants include cities, towns, counties, and ports, Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

As a result of water withdrawals during the peak growing season, stretches of many streams and rivers run low – and sometimes dry – with significant consequences for imperiled salmon, steelhead, trout and other creatures. Using permanent acquisitions, leases, investments in efficiency and other incentive-based approaches, the CBWTP supports program partners in the Columbia Basin by assisting landowners who wish to restore flow.

The CBWTP is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation working in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The majority of funding is provided by BPA in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.
- **Additional grant opportunities**
 - Click [HERE](#) to use the federal government's primary grant search engine.
 - The Association of Washington Cities has an electronic newsletter called "Grant Alert." Many grants are relevant to natural resource issues affecting cities throughout Washington.
 - The Department of Commerce administers a website dedicated to grants relevant to GMA planning activities. Click [HERE](#) to view this page.
 - The Washington Biodiversity Project provides an overview of opportunities to receive grants and incentives for projects that lead to the conservation of Washington's biodiversity [HERE](#).

WDFW contacts for fish and wildlife planning

Eastern Washington:

Karin Divens, 509.892-1001 x 323, (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman); karin.divens@dfw.wa.gov

North-central Washington:

509.754.4624 (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Adams)

South-central Washington:

Mark Teske, 509.962.3421, (Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin); mark.teske@dfw.wa.gov

Southwest Washington:

Ted Labbe, 360.906.6731, (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat); ted.labbe@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound & Olympic Peninsula:

Katie Knight, 360.902.2618, (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom); katie.knight@dfw.wa.gov

Planning Technical Assistance Manager:

Jennifer Davis, 360.902-2562; jennifer.davis@dfw.wa.gov

Priority Habitats & Species Management Recommendations:

Jeff Azerrad, 360.906.6754; jeffrey.azerrad@dfw.wa.gov

Local Habitat Assessment:

John Jacobson, 360-902-2479; john.jacobson@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW PHS Data Request Hotline:

360.902.2543

Fish & Wildlife Planner

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N · Olympia, WA · 98501-1091