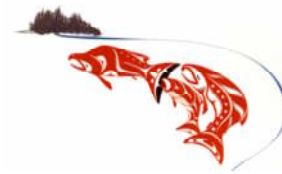


Winter 2005

Cascadia



Newsletter of the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest

CASCADIA Restoration & Management News

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Inside!

- Networking News.
- Improving mobility for wildlife and people.
- Restoration of an urban stream in SE Alaska.
- **SER-NW Regional Conference – April 4-8, 2005!**
- **TTW at Town Hall on April 6.**
- **Conference Registration at www.sernw.org or use the enclosed form.**
- Announcements.

Join Terry Tempest Williams and SERNW for an evening forum at Town Hall during the conference!

ONE TREE

By Terry Tempest Williams

I want to speak about a tree. One tree. A cottonwood that arches over the road to our house like a great matriarch welcoming her children home. I love this tree. I love her massive, gnarled, weathered trunk that, when I touch it, reminds me of how life shapes us. It takes three, maybe four, human beings holding hands to circle her completely. I know because once, on a clear October day, my three nieces, my father, and I wrapped our arms around her. You may think I have fallen into cliché by hugging a tree, but isn't love always threatening to undermine our most sensible, skeptical, and cynical selves?

In the presence of this tree, I am reduced to exactly what I am, simply another form of life that benefits from her generosity. Be it a flicker in her branches, a line of ants departing from her trunk, or a wood moth resting with splayed wings against her bark.

Our community of two hundred or so people in this redrock valley of southern Utah honors this tree. At Christmas, someone quietly places a red velvet bow on her trunk. On New Year's Eve, fireworks fly past her crown and explode, creating a momentary flash of frosted boughs and limbs against a starlit sky, exposing her architecture. In the spring, it is not uncommon to find individuals simply sitting and reading under the chartreuse buds; no shade is too small not to be savored here. And in summer, the cottonwood expands to her full eminence, green leaves trembling in the slightest of breezes, bending in the most wicked of storms, her enormous branches lifting and stretching and framing the eroding buttes and mesas around her. Even in a flash flood, the waters part around her.



Photo Credit: Mark Babushkin

Continued on page 3

New Networking Opportunities for SERI Members

By

Mary Kay LeFevour

More than 2,000 SERI members are subscribed to our new networking listservs. Five months ago, SERI introduced 20 listservs on popular issues and topics in the field to give members an easy way to network with colleagues around the world. We were delighted to find that hundreds of members subscribed to the listservs overnight!

Listservs are automatic electronic mailing lists. People sharing an interest in an issue or topic subscribe to a given listserv, and other subscribers' contributions to the listserv are distributed to the entire subscriber base via e-mail. The result is similar to a newsgroup or forum, except that the messages are transmitted as e-mail and are therefore available only to individuals on the list.

These discussion forums give everyone an opportunity to introduce hot issues, network and share information with colleagues and experts. Over the months, we added 5 listservs in response to member requests. One of our most popular additions, *Grants Corner*, is a great way for SERI headquarters to provide grant, funding and RFQ opportunities to our members in a timely way.

Already our listserv communities have had lively discussions on what the "blue book" value for a desert ecosystem is; what are good substitutes for ryegrass in erosion control; how to prevent animal damage to a newly restored project; what are the priorities in developing a schoolyard restoration learning environment; and the ethical dilemma animal-welfare oriented restorationists face when culling an invasive wildlife species is the only option for a site's protection.

Currently we don't have moderators for our listservs -- a moderator is a person appointed to ensure emails are appropriate before they are posted and to help keep the discussion lively. We encourage our members to create their own community and leave the content of the listserv up to the organic needs of the subscribing members. However, we do append a few listserv rules to each post to serve as a guide to good listserv etiquette.

Currently, SERI's listserv are:

- Coastal Ecological Restoration
- Collaborative Restoration
- Desert Ecological Restoration
- Exotic and Invasive Species in Restoration
- Forest Restoration
- Grants Corner: Funding Opportunities in Restoration

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meeting information,
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Continued from page 1

This tree stands where two roads—one dirt, one paved—take different directions. Sometimes I take the dirt road just so I can see this magnificent tree from another point of view. I recognize it as a Fremont cottonwood, one of the signature trees of the Colorado Plateau that promises the presence of water nearby. And there is water, just below, a small creek that runs through the valley carrying melted snow from the LaSal Mountains to the south, which will eventually empty into the Colorado River just a few miles north.

In the hands of the Hopi, the roots of cottonwoods become kachinas carved out of the soft, yielding wood. Crow Mother stands on my desk. She is Cottonwood. She is Root. She is the ceremonial kachina with her turquoise-painted face and black triangular mask hiding her eyes, nose, and mouth. Black wings fan from her ears like flames. A woven blanket drapes over her shoulders, black, green, and white, just like the tree. She holds in her hands a basket of seeds.

This tree was once a seed, blown by the wind, which settled in red sand and began to reach downward and upward at once. We are all here by some gesture of grace. Or perhaps Crow Mother planted this Spirit Tree a century ago. The elders who know say this is one of the oldest trees in the American Southwest. I believe them.

Roots. Trunk. Branches. Leaves. Growing still, this cottonwood continues to guide and remind us of what it means to live in place. This tree brought me home. Here, now, she stands, her deep quiet registering as the patience I so wish to learn. Here, now, I live, forever mindful of the presence of one tree.

I think about her death every day. And then I see her leaves catching light and wonder why we cannot simply be held in the beauty of this moment.

ONE TREE by Terry Tempest Williams. First published in *Natural Home Magazine*. May/June 2000.

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Continued from page 2

- Grassland/Savannah and Prairie Restoration
- Indigenous People and Restoration
- Philosophy and Restoration
- Prescribed Fire in Restoration and Management
- Restoration Business and Finance
- Restoration Education and Social Marketing
- Riparian Restoration
- Soil Issues/Soil Seed Bank Management
- Stream/River Restoration
- Urban Ecological Restoration
- Volunteers in Restoration
- Watershed and Restoration
- Wetland Restoration
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration

As soon as someone joins SERI, we e-mail them a “Welcome Letter” giving subscription instructions to the listservs. Members can join as many listservs as they wish. If you are not already a member of SERI, please join our growing network and add your expertise and experience to our community.

Mary Kay LeFevour is the Executive Director of SER International and can be reached at mkl@ser.org.

Improving Mobility for Wildlife and People: Planning for Habitat Connectivity on I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass

By Paul Wagner and Charlie Raines

Washington's Snoqualmie Pass area supports many habitat types and provides important linkage between the north and south Cascades. Urban development to the west and agriculture and resort development on the east, however, have shrunk the connecting forest area to less than 40 miles wide. This factor, combined with the fragmented state of the forest, has made the area a focal point for efforts by agencies and other organizations to protect and restore natural habitats. Attention is now focusing on the freeway that traverses the area, Interstate 90, a significant barrier to over 250 species of wildlife, including cougar, elk, deer, mustelids (otters, fishers, badgers, etc.), amphibians and reptiles.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is developing plans for adding lanes to I-90 east of Snoqualmie Pass between Hyak and Easton. In addition to transportation objectives, the project design also emphasizes improving and restoring connectivity for a diverse array of terrestrial and aquatic species. For example, by extending bridges at stream crossings, the project can not only provide for hydrologic functions and processes, but also allow for wildlife passage in riparian areas. Additional upland wildlife crossing structures, including at least one overpass specifically for wildlife, are planned to allow movement of terrestrial species.

Numerous scientific studies and inventories have been conducted in the area to provide a sound foundation and a special planning process specifically for the connectivity elements. Preferred habitat conditions and documented movement patterns are balanced with site-specific design considerations, including cost, to establish a range of possible solutions to be presented in a draft environmental impact statement due in spring 2005.

The I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition has been working with WSDOT, other public officials, transportation interests, and the public to raise awareness of the project and the multiple benefits of including high quality wildlife crossing structures. In addition to the ecological benefits, such structures can improve safety for motorists by reducing collisions that are sometimes fatal to humans as well as wildlife.

Recent land acquisitions and national forest management changes have dramatically improved the outlook for habitat quality near the project. In recent years, purchases, donations, and exchanges have brought more than 50,000 acres of land valued at \$200 million into public ownership and protection. The Forest Service is committing to additional habitat restoration, such as road removal.

Given the intense competition for transportation funds, particularly big-ticket projects near urban areas, the "I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East" project will need broad-based support to obtain funding. The project is well-positioned to overcome the environmental community's general opposition to expanded freeways by providing a high level of wildlife connectivity. Project proponents will also need to navigate anti-tax politics by joining in a diverse coalition of agencies, conservation groups, and shipping interests.

Paul Wagner is with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Charlie Raines is the Campaign Director of the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition, 3414 1/2 Fremont Ave., Seattle, WA 98103. He can be reached at (206) 523-1347 or ccraines@comcast.net.



Abstracts

Restoration of a Small Urban Stream in Southeast Alaska

By K. V. Koski

Duck Creek is a small coastal stream located in the Mendenhall Valley, a relatively high density residential and business area in Alaska's capital city, Juneau. The stream has remnant wild populations of anadromous salmonids including coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) salmon, cutthroat trout (*O. clarki*), and Dolly Varden char (*Salvelinus malma*). Historically, there were runs of nearly 10,000 chum salmon (*O. keta*); however, they are now extinct. The coho run that numbered about 500 fish in the 1960s is currently less than about 20 fish, and the once excellent trout fishing is closed.

Duck Creek is among 30 surface waterbodies in Alaska that is listed as impaired by urban runoff from non-point source pollutants; the anadromous fish habitat has suffered significantly from an accumulation of physical habitat alteration, poor water quality, loss of riparian vegetation, and loss of estuarine wetlands. Despite its impairment, the watershed still provides beneficial and often essential resources such as drainage and flood control, fish and wildlife habitat, opportunities for aquatic education, and recreation. Because of its warm groundwater and extensive pond habitat, the stream provides important overwintering habitat for juvenile coho salmon that migrate into the stream each fall from the estuary. This life history strategy produces about 2000-4000 salmon smolts annually that contribute to the local harvest of coho.

The Duck Creek Advisory Group (DCAG) was formed in 1993 by scientists from federal and state agencies and Juneau citizens who were concerned about the loss of small streams and salmon habitat from urban development. A significant accomplishment of the DCAG project has been the development of many partnerships with community groups interested in protecting and restoring stream and wetland habitats. The DCAG has evolved into a partnership of over 25 organizations including municipal, state and federal governments, local conservation interests, property owners along Duck Creek, school and youth groups, and developers.

Science has been an integral part of the DCAG and through the development of baselines of current conditions, it has provided information to assess problems and develop restoration strategies. The science-based approach being used by the DCAG has four phases that have been implemented sequentially over several years: (1) establish baselines of ambient conditions; (2) implement pollution control measures; (3) implement restoration projects, and (4) evaluate effectiveness of the overall restoration and pollution abatement program. Duck Creek restoration is a work in progress in a dynamic, developed watershed. As such, there are many complicating factors inherent in a watershed of this type - water quality issues, a wide range of anthropogenic disturbances, development pressures, plus some global warming and glacial rebounding. Several demonstration projects have been implemented on Duck Creek including restoration of spawning and rearing habitat, replacement of culverts to improve fish passage, revegetation of riparian areas, and creation of wetlands.

For the SERNW 2005 Conference, a brief case-study will be presented, which will include our community-based approaches for development of a long-term watershed management plan, for implementation of restoration projects, and for evaluation of effectiveness.

K. V. Koski is the Habitat Coordinator with the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801. K.V. Koski can be reached at 907-789-6024 or k.koski@noaa.gov.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Where in the World are We Going? How Nature, Cities and Culture can Flourish in the 21st Century. April 6, 2005. Town Hall, Seattle, WA. Join SERNW for an evening forum with special guests Terry Tempest Williams, Andrew Light, Stuart Cowan, David Conrad, and Alex Steffen (invited). Katharin Barile will be the host of the event. See www.sernw.org for details.

Environmental Banking & Beyond, the 8th National Mitigation & Conservation Banking Conference, April 18-21, 2005, Charlotte, NC. Join us for this cutting-edge conference, offering sessions on emerging markets (stream mitigation, conservation banking, multi-credit banks, water quality trading, agriculture), sessions on standards and sustainability, tracking progress, case studies, sales & marketing and more. Field Trips (urban & rural), a new Banking Primer Workshop, the Regulators' Forum facilitated by the Corps and Bankers' Forum by NMBA. Plus a Federal Update, special guests, and the inside track on what's happening with the EEP in North Carolina. Enjoy Exhibits, Posters, Networking Opportunities and much more. Register early and save! More information at www.mitigationbankingconference.com or call (703) 548-5473.

Resources

Center for Invasive Plant Management. A great site to learn about new weed management strategies. (www.weedcenter.org/restoration/restoration.htm)

USDA PLANTS Database. The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

Restoration Growers Association (RGA). Download a list of local Washington native plant suppliers at www.sernw.org/interest.htm

Job Announcements (see www.sernw.org/jobs.htm)

Wetlands Ecologist. Location: Bellevue, WA. Company: CH2M HILL. Closing Date: Until filled.

Aquatic Biologist. Location: Bellevue, WA. Company: CH2M HILL. Closing Date: Until filled.

Mid-Level Ecologist. Location: Woodinville, Washington. Closing Date: Until filled.

Wetland Biologist. Location: Kent, Washington. Company: Barghausen Consulting Engineers, Inc. Closing Date: Until filled.

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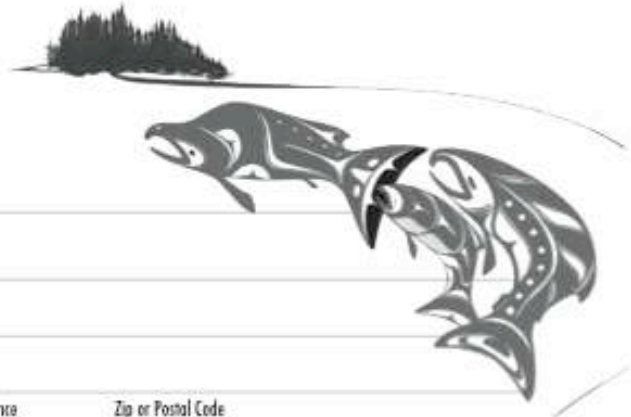
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Business card (3.5X2")	\$40/issue, \$150/yr

To receive submission guidelines and submit ads, email sernw@mindspring.com.

2005 Regional Conference Registration Form

Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter



Please type or print clearly

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Company / Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Email Address _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

Conference Registration Fees include coffee breaks, 3 lunches, and 1 evening reception

	premarked by March 3, 2005	premarked after March 3, 2005	On Site	
SERNW Member	240.00	290.00	340.00	\$ _____
Nonmember	310.00	360.00	410.00	\$ _____
Student	185.00	185.00	205.00	\$ _____
One Day - please check day: <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri	145.00	165.00	185.00	\$ _____
Speaker Registration	240.00	240.00	290.00	\$ _____

Field Trips

<input type="checkbox"/> FS 1 Wetland and Riparian Restoration in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed	50.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 2 Salmon Habitat Restoration in Western Washington	75.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 3 Shinglemill Creek Watershed Restoration Project	90.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 4 Skagit Estuary	50.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 5 Restoration and Ethnoecology of South Puget Sound Prairie and Garry Oak Woodlands	60.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 6 Noxious Weed Management in King County	55.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FS 7 Urban Stream Restoration	55.00	\$ _____

Workshops

<input type="checkbox"/> WS 1 Writing Effective Plant Specifications for Restoration and Mitigation Projects	70.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WS 2 Living Infrastructure: The Integration of Natural Drainage in the High Point Housing Community	70.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WS 3 Winter Plant Identification	75.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WS 4 Beaverworks Management Workshop	80.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Event, Wednesday Evening at Town Hall	8.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer vegetarian meals		

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

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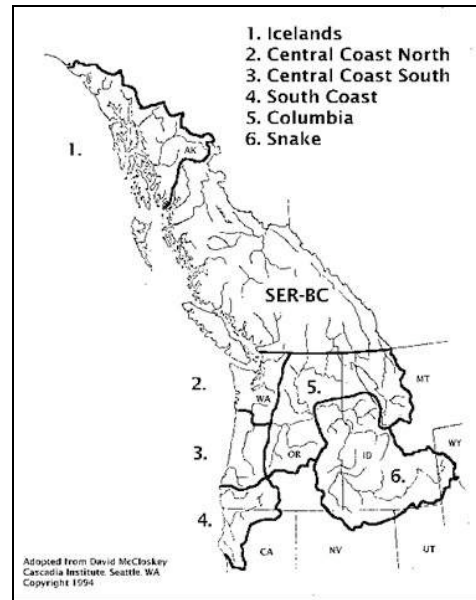
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.sernw.org

About Our Organization...

The mission of SER-NW is to promote ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life in the Cascadia bioregion by respectfully reconnecting Pacific Northwest cultures and ecosystems.

The Cascadia Bioregion includes Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. British Columbia has their own chapter.



Where in the World are We Going?

An evening forum on
April 6, 2005 at **Town
Hall** in Seattle with
special guests **Terry
Tempest Williams,**
Andrew Light, Stuart
Cowan, David Conrad,
and Alex Steffen (invited).

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