

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

by Adam Gravley, President, AWRA Washington Section

Focus on ESA

Watershed event. Paradigm shift. New World Order. Pick your well-worn expression of choice, but there's no denying that the Endangered Species Act is now driving water resources policy in this state. In February, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed ESA listings for west coast Chinook salmon populations, including the Puget Sound. (See Steve Foster's article on page 3 for details on the listing and next steps in the process.) In less than a year, NMFS will make a final decision on the proposed listing, and this deadline has galvanized state and local government to develop a successful salmon restoration program.

Governor Locke has launched a State Salmon Strategy with the goals of restoring salmon runs and preserving quality of life and economic growth. These goals are typically seen as competing objectives, as the ESA is perceived as the mother of all permitting restrictions. Stricter non-point source pollution controls, tougher stormwater rules, more water rights restrictions, increased mitigation requirements for development projects, limitations on construction activities, and other measures appear to be in the works. The newly-established Salmon Recovery Team in the Governor's office will be on point for achieving the Governor's goals.

The legislature, too, focused on salmon, or at least found it to be trendy. Approximately 75 bills mentioning salmon were introduced in this year's session. The watershed planning bill, HB 2514, is the only significant water resources bill to pass (although it was awaiting signature/veto by the Governor at press time). This bill seeks to establish locally-driven plans to guide water quality and quantity management (see Judy Turpin's article on page 2 for an in depth discussion), and the hope is that it will contribute to making Washington's salmon recovery plan a success like Oregon's.

Local governments are also taking a proactive approach to develop an Oregon-like solution. King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties have formed the Central Puget Sound ESA Forum and convened a meeting recently with tribes, agencies, and other interests to start work on a coordinated ESA response. And, King County is hiring experts to assist in development of a local recovery plan.

These ambitious plans raise numerous questions. What will these plans say? What do they need to say to forestall or mitigate for an ESA listing in 1999? What do they need to say to recover salmon habitat and populations? What will the practical impacts be on you or your organization? What steps can or should you or your organization take to contribute to this effort and to prepare for its consequences? While we can look to ESA listings in other parts of the country for clues, an ESA listing in the Central Puget Sound would be unique as the first listing in an urban habitat with an expanding human population and economic base.

The AWRA will focus on the ESA-water resources nexus over the next two years. The AWRA Board recently decided that the topic of this fall's annual conference will relate to ESA and water resource connections, with possible presentations on the basics of ESA and habitat conservation plans, water supply, stormwater management, instream resources and fisheries, and land use. We are also the proud host of the 1999 AWRA national conference, which will discuss watershed planning to protect declining species (see page 6 for details). If you are interested in helping to plan either of these upcoming events or have ideas for presentations, please contact me or any Board member. We welcome your involvement.

Finally, former growth management guru Mike Grady will speak on the ESA process and Chinook salmon at our next dinner meeting on April 22. He is currently a senior policy analyst with NMFS, and his informative presentation should be of keen interest to all. I hope to see you there. ☺

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 22
5:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
April Dinner Meeting

May 20-21
Mt. Vernon, WA
**Salmon in the City
Conference**



Check:
<http://earth.golder.com/waawra/>
for updated calendar of events

Watershed Planning Bill (HB 2514)

by Judy Turpin, TMT Associates

Following up on the passage last year of a watershed planning bill (HB 2054) which was largely vetoed, a facilitated negotiation among the "five corners" - representing the four legislative caucuses and the administration - resulted in the proposal of HB 2514, billed as a comprehensive proposal for collaborative watershed management. The bill emerged after many drafts and hours of negotiation and was sent to the Governor for his decision. The five corners also chartered efforts to reach agreement on municipal water issues and on hydraulic continuity. Two groups are now working on these issues to develop proposals by the end of 1998.

While watershed planning is not a new issue for the Washington legislature, the listings and proposed listings of salmonids over much of the state have changed the context for these discussions. Acceptance of a statewide salmon plan by federal agencies is seen as potentially allowing the state to retain control of the recovery strategy for salmon which will be required under the Endangered Species Act. With listings and proposed listings expected to include the major urban population centers of Washington, all major interests have a substantial stake in any related legislation. The Governor has indicated his desire to incorporate watershed approaches into the statewide recovery plan being prepared to "restore healthy salmon, steelhead, and trout populations and improve those habitats on which the fish rely." (For the State Salmon Strategy go to www.wa.gov/esa).

The bill requires agreement between a county with land in a Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA), the largest city in the WRIA, and the water utility that uses the most water in the WRIA to begin action. These entities would then invite any tribe with reservation land in the WRIA to join them. Grants will be available for organizing and scoping the effort. The initiating governments would then be required to work with state government, other local governments and any affected tribes to develop a planning process. There is flexibility at this point with the only mandatory activity being development of a water quantity assessment and strategies to increase water available for various needs. The group may also address instream flow levels, water quality and fish habitat.

If the planning group decides to take on instream flow decisions, there is specific guidance on the decision processes and the group has up to four years after the watershed assessment funding is achieved to do so. Flow adoption requires unanimous consent of governments including tribes and a majority of non-governmental members. Flows adopted in this process, or by the department within two years of failure to reach agreement under this process, will have a priority date two years from the receipt

of initial planning funding unless there is unanimous agreement otherwise. Flows already set can only be modified if governments including tribes agree.

The overall plan must be approved by the planning unit by unanimous agreement of the governments including tribes and a majority of non-governmental members of the planning unit. Groups that are funded past the initial organizing money have a total of four years to complete their work and submit it to the counties. The county governments then have an opportunity to approve or reject the plan but not alter it. The plan must be consistent with state and federal law and treaty rights. No government can be obligated by the plan without its consent.

The form passed by the House contained more prescriptive procedural components including very specific membership specifications and additional approval conditions. The final product is more flexible with fewer mandatory provisions. Both versions used grants as the incentive for local government participation. The scope and quality of the watershed plan will depend on the attitude and resources of the local governments choosing to participate.

The federal government may or may not accept this approach as adequate to serve as a component of a state recovery plan. The three overarching components of a successful restoration strategy identified by NMFS are: "(a) substantive protective and conservation elements, (b) a high level of certainty that the strategy will be reliably implemented, including necessary authorities, commitments, funding, staffing, and enforcement measures, and (c) a comprehensive monitoring program." [Coastal Salmon Conservation: Working Guidance for Comprehensive Salmon Restoration Initiatives on the Pacific Coast" (NMFS 1996c)].

Success of this approach is not assured - long-term issues remain unsettled and may simply be moving to multiple locations for dispute. Failure to set clear resource goals or means to measure progress toward their achievement will make assessment of the results difficult and contentious. If planning groups founder or fail to step up to the challenge of recovery, valuable time will have been lost. Tribal participation - a key to reaching a stable result - is clouded by problems related both to the conditions of the role of tribal governments in the planning groups and by the failure to adequately address tribal instream flow concerns. What does appear to be clear is that some local governments intend to move forward. For example King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties brought a large group of elected officials, tribes and other interested parties together on March 19 to work out a potential structure for a three county coordinated effort. ☺

ESA Proposed Listing for Chinook Salmon in Puget Sound

by Steven Foster, Army Corps of Engineers

On February 26th National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed listing the Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) after a comprehensive status review of populations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California, in response to petitions filed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based on this review, NMFS identified a total of 15 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of Chinook salmon within this range, two of which were found at risk of extinction, and five at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future. The Puget Sound ESU, made up of a 12 county area, was found to warrant a proposed threatened listing. Recent average Chinook run size in the region was found to be about 240,000, compared with historical peak run size of 690,000. Trends were found to be predominantly downward in North Sound and Hood Canal and upward in South Sound. Large hatchery contribution to spawning escapement coupled with excessive use of a few hatchery stocks throughout the ESU contributed to the threatened condition. Of the 13 native, naturally producing stocks evaluated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, two were rated healthy, five depressed, two critical, and four unknown. Degradation of the freshwater spawning and rearing habitat and blocked access to much of the spring-run spawning and rearing habitat were found to be significant factors causing the decline.

This proposed rule under the ESA sets a number of actions in motion. First the NMFS will hold public hearings in the Puget Sound ESU and offer a 90-day opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed listings and designations of critical habitat. Within 12 months of the 26 February, 1998 announcement, according to published information, NMFS will make final determinations on this and other proposals and issue final rules. These rules will designate critical habitat, and issue regulations to protect threatened and endangered Chinook. In addition to the actions prescribed

for the NMFS, many other local, county, state and federal agencies will be addressing ways to build strong partnerships leading to conservation initiatives that save this species and its habitats in Puget Sound.

The Puget Sound counties of King, Pierce and Snohomish have begun an effort in collaboration with the State of Washington, Puget Sound tribes, and various local and federal agencies to restore healthy salmon populations and protect those rivers and streams on which they rely. These jurisdictions and agencies have formed the Central Puget Sound Endangered Species Act Forum and in a meeting held on March 19, 1998 began tailoring their actions to match the successful "Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative." The heart of the Oregon Plan is its commitment to four key elements: investments in local solutions; private/public partnerships; science-based watershed management; and implementation of existing laws. The vision of the central Puget Sound ESA response is to act cooperatively to develop a comprehensive and credible response to federal ESA listings of Puget Sound Chinook salmon. This group expects by working together to address the factors of decline, to protect what is currently good habitat, and to identify restoration options that have a certainty of increasing stock of wild Chinook. Follow-up and monitoring over time will also be a key part of the restoration process. In addition, agencies whose traditional role of assisting state and local governments in developing water resources (e.g. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), are utilizing new authorities to support these efforts with watershed habitat restoration projects.

The response to this proposed listing will truly be a regional effort with the professional community providing solid science, a network of grass roots groups working on restoration projects, and resources provided through bipartisan political efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN RIO DE JANEIRO

by Fran Solomon, Ph.D., Senior Ecologist, King County Department of Natural Resources

My husband and I decided to "double dip" on summer by traveling for a month in the southern hemisphere countries of Argentina, Chile, and Brazil in late December and January. Our last stop on this marvelous vacation was the crowded, bustling metropolis of Rio de Janeiro, where I had meetings with three environmental organizations: the City of Rio Department of the Environment, Rio de Janeiro State University Water Quality Monitoring Program, and the Guanabara Bay Institute (Rio de Janeiro is located on Guanabara Bay). These meetings were arranged by Dora Nogueiros, a Brazilian environmental engineer whom I met in Seattle in the spring of 1997. I was impressed with the magnitude of water quality, water resource, and other environmental problems in Guanabara Bay and its surrounding watershed, and with the efforts that are planned and underway to address the problems.

At present, seven million people live in Rio de Janeiro. The population continues to grow as Brazilians migrate from rural areas to the large cities in search of more work opportunities. Approximately 1/3 of the city's population is concentrated in favelas (slums) on the hillsides where there is no infrastructure, i.e. no road, sewage collection, drinking water supply or garbage collection services. Guanabara Bay is very polluted and unsafe for swimming and fishing (although I saw people participating in both of these activities on the bay's many beaches). The major source of pollution is untreated sewage; 470 tons of it are discharged **daily** to the bay. In addition, oil and industrial effluent containing heavy metals and other pollutants are discharged to Guanabara Bay from 6,000 industrial plants, two oil refineries, three ports, 16 sea oil terminals, 2,000 gas stations, and 32 shipyards. Other contributors to degraded water quality in the bay are litter and a metropolitan landfill that collects 5,000 tons of solid waste and discharges 800 cubic meters of percolated liquid daily.

The top priority for the City of Rio Department of the Environment is construction and operation of six primary sewage treatment plants. Political factors are interfering with bringing these plants on-line. The City of Rio de Janeiro has obtained a loan from the World

Bank to construct the sewage treatment plants, but the loan requires matching funds from the State of Rio de Janeiro. However, the mayor of the City and the governor of the State are of opposing political parties, and the State will not release the matching funds. Does this kind of partisanship sound familiar? However, the Director of the Department of the Environment expressed optimism that the impasse would be resolved this year and the City would be able to proceed with this very important, necessary project.

Depending on the outcome of another loan application, the City of Rio de Janeiro, in cooperation with the state and federal governments and several non-governmental organizations and citizen groups, is hoping to begin a watershed restoration program. Sedimentation in the watershed's lakes and lagoons is causing loss of fish habitat and flooding in the neighboring communities. The City wants to dredge the sediments in these waterbodies, but is faced with the issue of how to dispose of the dredge spoils. Several staff members were analyzing the impacts of placing the dredged sediments in a nearby wetland. I explained that disposal of contaminated dredged sediments is a difficult issue in the United States as well and that there are no ideal answers.

The City of Rio Department of the Environment and the State University's Oceanography Department have a comprehensive water quality monitoring program for the beaches on Guanabara Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, including the famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches. Water samples are collected three times weekly and analyzed for fecal coliforms, nutrients, heavy metals (copper, lead, and zinc), and other water quality parameters. The results are known 24 hours later and the general public is advised on which are the cleanest swimming beaches for that particular day. The data are publicized via radio, television, newspaper, and the internet (check it out on www.rio.rj.gov.br/smac/balneab). As would be expected, the ocean beaches are generally less polluted than the Guanabara Bay beaches, but fecal coliform counts at all beaches exceed State of Washington water quality standards for marine and estuarine waters. I visited the university laboratories

where the water samples are analyzed and was impressed with the state-of-the-art equipment and the comprehensive quality assurance/quality control procedures.

A highly successful project of the City Department of the Environment is the Reforestation Project, which has won an award from the United Nations. Created in 1986, this project employs inhabitants of 52 favelas in planting and maintaining native vegetation on the hillsides on which the favelas are located. In the last 10 years, one million new Atlantic Forest native trees have been planted in over 500 hectares of land. This project has had multiple benefits: (1) stabilization of the hillsides, thereby decreasing the incidence of landslides, (2) imparting a sense of environmental stewardship to the project participants, and (3) provision of complimentary services such as drainage, water supply, and garbage removal which are generally not found in the favelas.

Air pollution is another environmental problem in Rio de Janeiro because the surrounding hills trap photochemical smog and the industrial plants emit pollutants. The City Department of the Environment has begun the Bicycle Tracks in Rio Project to increase the use of bicycles as a means of transportation, thereby decreasing the number of automobiles on the road and decreasing air pollution. As an avid bicyclist, I was very intrigued by this program and impressed with the existing 74 kilometer network of bicycle paths in the city and with the large number of people (80,000 weekly) who use these paths. The goal is 190 kilometers of bicycle tracks, crisscrossing the city from north to south.

My final meeting in Rio de Janeiro was at the Guanabara Bay Institute, a non-governmental organization founded two years ago by several engineers, biologists, geologists, and social scientists to control pollution sources in the bay and to educate the public about water pollution prevention and cleanup. Three projects are underway with a paid staff of 15 people. The first project (Gente do Caceribu) is a two-year project working with neighborhood associations, municipal authorities, and youth associations to train people for river basin administration in the Caceribu River. The Caceribu is an east side river and less polluted than the Bay's west side rivers which drain more heavily urbanized areas. Therefore, preventive solutions can still be applied instead of more expensive corrective ones.

Kids for Guanabara Bay, the second project, is modeled after People for Puget Sound's "Kids for Puget Sound" Program. This project has the same objectives as Gente do Caceribu but is directed to high school students. The third project, Guanabara Bay Information Center, has the goal of organizing all the information about Guanabara Bay and its hydrographic region and making this information available to the general public. An additional goal of this project is to exchange information with other bay information centers in Brazil and abroad. When I visited the Guanabara Bay Institute, I observed a detailed map of Chesapeake Bay hanging on the wall; this map is being used as a model to develop a detailed map of Guanabara Bay and its resources.

These three projects will continue this year. The directors of the Institute also hope that the Floating Garbage Collection Project will begin this year. Retired fishermen would be employed in collecting the almost 300 tons per day of floating garbage from the bay. Six small, specially designed boats would collect garbage and oil from the shoreline and two bigger boats would do the same in the middle of the bay. Gathering nets would be placed on the river mouths to intercept garbage before the garbage reached the bay. This sounded like a worthwhile Earth Day type of project to me.

As soon as more funding becomes available, several other projects will be implemented: (1) habitat protection, (2) more public education and hands-on involvement in Guanabara Bay cleanup, (3) development of an ecotourism center on one of the islands in the bay, (4) writing a book about the historical uses of the bay, and (5) planning a Latin-American Seminar on Urban Estuary Ecosystem Management to promote the exchange of experience on the management of urban bays and to start the Latin-American chapter of the International Urban Estuary Network.

The level of energy and commitment of the managers and staff at the City Department of the Environment, the State University Water Quality Monitoring Program, and the Guanabara Bay Institute were inspirational. I wish my Brazilian colleagues well in their endeavors to tackle some major water resource and public health issues, and look forward to keeping in touch with them. 🌊

The AWRA Washington Section will Host the 1999 AWRA Annual Conference.

Working Title: **“Watershed Management to Protect Declining Species”**

The Washington Section has been selected to host the national conference of the American Water Resources Association. This is a wonderful opportunity for this region to display our commitment to the preservation, protection and wise management of our precious water resources. We are proud to serve as host and we are confident that we can put on a tremendous conference. However, we can't do it without your help.

Where:	Seattle Sheraton and Towers Sixth and Pike Street, Downtown Seattle
When:	Sat. December 4 th to Thurs. December 9, 1999
Theme:	Watershed Management to Protect Declining Species

Can You Give Us A Hand?

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING FOR THIS MAJOR CONFERENCE. ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP:

- *DEFINE THE FINAL THEME FOR THE CONFERENCE*
- *IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SPEAKERS THAT ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD*
- *IDENTIFY OTHERS THAT CAN HELP IN ORGANIZING*
- *HELP WITH THE LOGISTICS, FIELD TRIPS, ETC.*

We need your help in defining the themes of the conference and putting together a technical program that addresses priority issues. We need your help to identify the major subjects for the concurrent sessions.

Keyword Topics: Salmon Recovery, ESA, Watershed Planning, Tribes, Habitat Restoration, Fish Management, Water Quality, Non-point Sources, Urbanization, Agriculture, Forestry, Stormwater, Water Policy, Water Rights, Instream Flows, Hatcheries, Harvest, Hydropower, Fish Passage, Wetlands, Innovative Solutions, Reclaimed Water, Ground Water Recharge, Interties, Municipal Water Supply, Water Demands, Water Conservation, Water Rates, Watershed Councils.

If you can help, contact Rod Sakrison, Ph.D., Conference Chair, at (425) 649-7140, or e-mail RSAK461@ecy.wa.gov

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This newsletter is a publication of the Washington Section of the American Water Resources Association. It is published bi-monthly. This is a forum for members to share ideas and opinions; as such, opinions expressed in the AWRA Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the WA Section of AWRA.

Submissions are welcome for the May/June newsletter. The submittal due date is May 8, 1998. The editor reserves the right to make changes for reasons of length, grammar, legality or clarity. Contact Chris Pitre at (425) 883-0777, or send submittals directly via:

FAX: 425-882-5498

or

Internet Mail: cpitre@golder.com

(most document/graphic formats are acceptable)

What this State Section is All About!

The WA State Chapter of the AWRA fosters educational and professional development.

Student support is provided in the form of two annual student fellowships, sponsorship of a student chapter at the University of Washington, and underwriting of a special meeting in the early summer hosted by the student chapter and open only to student, faculty, and Section members.

Interorganizational support is fostered with local, interstate and international organizations.

A **bimonthly newsletter** is published containing in-depth analysis and editorials of current issues.


Brownbags are organized on special issues as they arise.

Several **dinner meetings** are held throughout the year providing good food and good company followed by a presentation by featured guests.

The annual climax is a **Fall Conference** in November which is the principal funding vehicle for many Section activities.

A **dedicated board** of 15 members meet regularly to plan, organize and facilitate events.

The Washington Chapter has been selected to host the **1999 National AWRA Conference**.

If you wish to learn more about your Section and/or wish to participate more in Section activities, you will be warmly welcomed. Please contact any of the board members listed in the side board to the left. 

WATERSHED PLANNING: WSDOT & RCW DISCUSS THEIR WORK

by **Teresa J. Platin, CH2M HILL**

The Washington Section of AWRA began its program year with a dinner meeting featuring representatives of two facets of the watershed planning movement. On February 26th, approximately 50 people gathered to enjoy socializing, dinner and the wonderful presentations of our featured guests. First, Joy Huber, Executive Director of the Rivers Council of Washington (RCW), spoke about her non-profit organization's work to involve more of the citizenry of Washington State in river preservation, restoration and watershed stewardship. Then, Jerry Alb, Director of Environmental Services for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), shared his group's visions, challenges and strategies in the implementation of a basin-wide mitigation approach for transportation projects.

Joy began her talk by pointing out that the general public is picking up on the water resources/people connection. It is her goal to involve everyone possible to "clean up the messes we've made" and to preserve the good things. The RCW is working with the 62 watershed councils set up across the state, and they are also actively involved with approximately 365 groups, with an outreach program to a total of 700. Through its conferences, legislative support of water-related bills, and brokering of volunteer workforces, the RCW is working towards an ambitious plan to involve 2% of the population of Washington in water resources preservation. Joy's group is presently looking at House Bill 2496 as a driver in the development of a strategy for salmon recovery that is supported by volunteers. Regional councils will be important to determine habitat improvement and restoration priorities. There is a strong feeling in the RCW that a "meeting of the minds" is needed for watershed planning efforts at the WRIA (Watershed Resources Inventory Area) and the improvement of habitat through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The RCW is also actively

defining its ability to be part of the solution with other agencies such as WSDOT.

Joy stressed the importance of keeping watershed councils in touch with the community. The RCW's plan for this involves their program, Rivers CPR (Connecting People with Rivers). This program gives teams a way to work with rivers and fund their organizations at the same time. Community groups, churches, rotary organizations - all are able to participate in the basic model of River CPR course fees starting with the organizations (the "retailers" in this model) and going all the way back to the watershed councils (the "wholesalers.") The volunteers pass information on to the watershed councils, and data is also made available on the Internet.

On April 20th, the RCW will hold another conference, with Ron Sims (King County Executive) and Bern Shanks (Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) kicking off the meeting. Other speakers include representatives from the tribes, irrigation districts, conservation groups, commercial interests and several agencies. For more details, please contact A.M. Noel of the RCW at (206) 283-4988.

Posing a question at the beginning of his presentation, Jerry Alb captured the audience's attention by asking "Are we spending our mitigation dollars wisely?" Making reference to the funding available to WSDOT, he stated that there are "100 million reasons to ask the question." In a time when the legislature is downsizing government and the concept of "no new taxes" is ever important, WSDOT's use of this money is receiving a good deal of scrutiny. With the money appropriated by the legislature, WSDOT is challenged to spend the funds creatively, show benefits from the spending, build partnerships and be flexible. A key to understanding the work that Jerry is doing is knowing that the legislature created his office; it was not created at WSDOT's initiative. He is leading the department's change from project-to-project

mitigation of impacts to a more balanced basin-wide approach. As the state's largest developer, WSDOT knows the importance of its commitment to also be "an agency of the government in environmental concerns." Jerry acknowledged that the resource agencies are accustomed to WSDOT's being a permittee, and are still adjusting to the idea that they all need to act like partners in the process.

Jerry also stressed the importance of a balance between implementation, regulations and planning, and the need to work with consultants, agencies and the public. Jerry is on the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet, and he explained to the audience that WSDOT is involved in some of the legislation before the House (namely HBs 3098, 3049, 3110, 2879 and others). His organization is looking towards watershed groups such as the RCW to help implement the restoration credits concept, making the road smoother for future projects. Three years ago, Governor Lowry's Office put WSDOT in the lead to make a watershed planning effort work. This was the start of the Snohomish Basin Pilot Project, and now WSDOT is looking at different watersheds to try different elements of

such a program. There is tremendous support nationally for the state of Washington's efforts, and other groups are watching and learning from the progress.

Paraphrasing from Jerry's presentation, WSDOT's environmental approach can be characterized as follows:

- They believe in avoidance and no net loss (without meaning "no new projects")
- They are a good partner. They have the 4 D's: data, designs, dollars and the desire to do the right thing.
- They are committed to serious participation in restoration.
- They can deliver the projects.

Thanks to all who attended this event, and special thanks to our speakers and their assistants (A.M. Noel of the Rivers Council and Megan Davis of WSDOT). The Washington Section of AWRA is planning four more dinner meetings this year. In our effort to continue to provide topics and speakers of relevance to the membership, we request your input. Please call any one of the Board Members (phone numbers listed on page 7) with suggestions. ☺

Stream Ecology Workshop Supports Larger Goals

by Peter Hayes, (Thornton Creek Project coordinator, Lakeside School)

An eclectic group of teachers, agency employees, local citizens and business people recently conducted an all day workshop on the ecology of running a watershed. Their learning represented a personal investment in a hopeful future for their home community. Sponsored by the Thornton Creek Project, and taught by Senior Ecologist Bob Fuerstenberg of King County and Pete Lortz of North Seattle Community College, the workshop provided a solid grounding in the central principles of stream ecology. Workshops such as this are one part of what the Project does to support learning through study and enhancement of north Seattle's Thornton Creek watershed. The workshop fills an important, unmet need. The Puget Sound area has many good examples of programs which coordinate vol-

unteers in monitoring and working to restore aquatic systems. These efforts will become more effective when more is done to: 1) analyze and synthesize information in ways which transform it into knowledge, 2) better focus and refine monitoring programs, and 3) restoration projects become more solidly grounded in ecological realities. Organizers hope that this workshop and related efforts are steps toward developing a stronger foundation of knowledge which will in turn support increased effectiveness of efforts to understand, maintain, and improve the health of our local aquatic systems. For more information, visit <http://nscx.sccd.ctc.edu/~tcp/> or contact tcp@nscx.sccd.ctc.edu phone 206-526-0187. Volunteer expertise is needed, welcomed, and appreciated. ☺

[Editor's note: Announcements of other organizations are included here. To include your announcement, contact cpitre@golder.com. Links to these organizations are provided through our web page at <http://earth.golder.com/waawra/>.

Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG)

April 16th David Montgomery (UW) discussing results of his recently published (Seattle Times) research on plotting of landslide areas in Seattle. Meeting will likely be at the Double Tree Inn in Bellevue.

May 12 features Kathy Troost (Shannon & Wilson), with possibly co-speaker Derek Booth, discussing the newest "Geology of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, Washington". Joint meeting with the NWGS.

Northwest Geological Society (NWGS)

April 14th Bill Laprade (Shannon & Wilson) Geology of downtown Seattle. There will be a corporate poster session as well.

May 12 features Kathy Troost (Shannon & Wilson), with possibly co-speaker Derek Booth, discussing the newest "Geology of the Tacoma Area". Joint meeting with the AEG.

Washington Hydrologic Society (WHS)

Contact Lynn Doremus at 206-244-8636, or Brian Drost by e-mail at bwdrost@usgs.gov.

Salmon in the City – Can Habitat In the Path of Development Be Saved

Sponsored by the American Public Works Association, May 20-21, 1998 Mt. Vernon, WA

This conference is sponsored by the APWA in conjunction with dozens of the most active organizations involved with surface water management, construction and development, and salmon recovery. Who should attend? The conference flyer states that "people in leadership roles in land use and drainage regulations and riparian zone preservation should be vitally interested in this conference."

The purpose of the conference is:

"Evidence is convincing that traditional development leads directly to destruction of receiving waters and fish habitat. This conference will provide decision makers with the data supporting this conclusion, and a description of the very few alternatives we have for development compatible with habitat preservation."

The salmon in the city conference has an impressive list of speakers and topics. The first morning revolves around the salmon recovery issues; the afternoon introduces the "needs of salmon." Speakers for the first day include Bern Shanks, Kurt Fresh, Les Eldridge, Jennifer Belcher, Terry Williams, Robert Fuerstenberg, Alan Johnson, James Karr, Gino Luchetti, and Karen Fraser. The second day centers on management and regulatory issues. Speakers for the second day include Chris May, Derek Booth, Doug Beyerlein, Susan Bolton, Jim Kramer, Curt Smitch, Tom Schueler, Tom Liptan, Allen Miller, and Tom Holz.

Additional information can be obtained from Tom Holz, SCA Engineering, (360) 493-6002. Registration and lodging information is provided by Washington State University Conferences and Institutes (800) 942-4978.

1998 Conference on Agriculture and Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest: Understanding Each Other and Working Together for a Better Future

Sponsored by the USGS October 20 - 21, 1998 Yakima, WA

Conference Mission: To provide a forum for agricultural interests, government, and environmentalists to come together in one place to discuss issues relevant to Agriculture and Water Quality. The intent is to present the different perspectives in a non-confrontational forum and to help each other see and understand the others' perspectives and points of view.

CHINOOK SALMON AS A THREATENED SPECIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PUGET SOUND AREA

Mike Grady, National Marine Fisheries Service

A topic that has been simmering for a long time reached the boiling point the last week of February when the National Marine Fisheries Service announced the proposed listing of a number of salmon populations in Washington, Oregon and Northern California. Chinook salmon runs in most of the major rivers of Puget Sound are proposed to be listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. This action could directly or indirectly impact the lives of the several million people living in the Seattle Metropolitan Area. The announcement triggered a week of front-page newspaper articles.

Mike Grady is a Senior Policy Analyst with the National Marine Fisheries Service who has been extensively involved in endangered species issues. Mike will briefly review the current status of the Chinook salmon and discuss the remaining steps and schedule for the Agency's formal decision to list the species. He will review the role that state and local agencies and major landowners are playing in developing habitat conservation plans and other actions to assure species recovery. Finally, he will discuss some of the implications that the Listing may have upon the Puget Sound area and its future development.

Plan to attend this very informative dinner. The dinner will be held at the Latitude 47 Restaurant, located on the shores of scenic Lake Union, near downtown Seattle. There is plenty of free parking. Pre-dinner socializing and a no-host bar will begin at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., followed by the presentation. We hope to see you there.

About Registration...Pre-registration is requested. The cost is \$22.00 for State Chapter Members and \$25.00 for others. There will be a \$5.00 additional fee charged for registration at the door.

Make checks payable to AWRA. Send them to AWRA Dinner, c/o Pete Sturtevant, Harding Lawson Associates, 411 108th Ave. NE, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98004-5515. Indicate on your check your preference for Baked Halibut or Pasta Primavera with Vegetables. A Caesar salad is included with the dinner.

Latitude 47 Restaurant is on the west shore of Lake Union at 1232 Westlake Ave. N., Seattle. Take the Mercer Exit from I-5. Turn north at the Westlake Ave. traffic light. The restaurant is on the right, ~½ mile after the turn. – Or download the map from <http://earth.golder.com/waawra/>.

County Hires Legal Aid to Save Salmon

by Brier Dudley, Seattle Times

(March 21, 1998) King County is hiring legal experts to save the Puget Sound Chinook salmon. Tim Thompson of the law firm of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Malanca Peterson & Daheim, who has helped draft wildlife protection plans, has a \$49,000, 15-month contract to help King County Executive Ron Sims develop a salmon recovery plan. The contract, and other special staff members Sims will seek next month from King County Council, are part of the cost of threatened federal legal action on behalf of the fish. An additional \$2 million may be requested to hire lawyers, biologists and policy analysts. The money would come partly from sewage fees, but no rate increases would be needed at this point. Environmental lawyers would help write a salmon plan and prepare to defend it in court. The local plan would be adopted as part of a broader state plan.

Chinook are rapidly approaching extinction because their habitat has been degraded by fishing, farming, forestry and development. Last month the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed the fish runs be protected under the Endangered Species Act. State and local governments have a year to develop a recovery plan that could avoid the listing and a potentially stricter federal plan. But ultimately the matter is likely to end up in court, officials from King, Snohomish and Pierce counties were told yesterday at a meeting in Bellevue.

“You’re going to be sued, they’re going to be sued. You better have something that holds up in court or don’t bother,” said Jim Martin, advisor to Oregon Gov. Jim Kitzhaber. Oregon has forestalled an endangered-species listing with plans for troubled coastal salmon runs. ☹

1998 Membership Application / Change of Address Form

(⅂ please circle, as appropriate ⌈)

Annual membership in the state chapter costs \$25.

(If you attended the 1997 Fall Conference, you are already a member for 1998 – Welcome!)

Name _____ Position _____ Affiliation _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____ Fax(_____) _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Check if you would like to be actively involved on a committee during 1998.
You will be contacted to determine what committee involvement you would like.

1998 Membership Dues (through October 1998): \$25.00. **Checks only.** Please make check payable to **AWRA Washington Section.**

Mail to: AWRA, Washington Section
c/o Mike Wert, Shapiro & Associates
101 Yesler Way, Ste. 400
Seattle, WA 98104

The American Water Resources Association is a scientific and educational non-profit organization established to encourage and foster interdisciplinary communication among persons of diverse backgrounds working on any aspect of water resources disciplines. Individuals interested in water resources are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Washington Section.

Special thanks to Golder Associates Inc. for word processing and graphics support on this newsletter.

American Water Resources Association, Washington Section
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