AWRA newsletter
Washington Section
AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
April/May

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: AWRA-WA PURPOSE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Scott Kindred, AWRA-WA Section President

The executive committee invested some time to update our strategic plan during the first quarter of 2012. We weren't starting from scratch; there have been strategic planning efforts throughout the history of the organization, the most recent in 2006. Our goal was to revisit the 2006 strategic plan, make any changes to better match the current environment, and identify specific goals and metrics to measure our success in meeting our long-range goals and objectives. In a nutshell, here's how we defined our **mission**:

- To provide a forum for advancing water resources management in Washington and the Pacific Northwest region;
- To serve the public interest by supporting education and informational exchanges, thereby resulting in better policy development regarding important water resources issues;
- To involve professionals and students from all disciplines and interested members of the public in activities that promote broad discussion and understanding of water resources issues; and,
- To recognize excellence in water resource education, management, and research.

Some of the verbiage in the first two bullets is slightly changed from our 2006 strategic plan to focus on facilitating dialogue and education regarding key water resource issues and clarify that we are not involved in policy development.

Our **specific goals** for 2012 are listed below:

1. Continue successful activities including the annual conference, student fellowship and annual award, newsletter, web site, and dinner meetings.

   So far we're on track to meet all our metrics for activities in 2012.

2. Expand the membership to areas outside of the Puget Sound Region and to include broad disciplinary representation.

   The annual conference will be in central Washington and we are hoping to attract a significant number of attendees from east of the mountains.

3. Strengthen the student chapter with participation by students and faculty from the University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Central Washington University and Evergreen University.

   Attendance by students (mostly from UW) at our dinner meetings has been setting records this year, with seven students at the recent dinner meeting. We are still working on how best to reach out to other universities and any suggestions/assistance from our members would be appreciated!

4. Increase involvement of non-board members in planning and organizing activities. This is important for creating a vibrant and sustainable organization.

   We've recruited five non-board members to help out on various committees this year, a significant increase from previous years. If you're interested in getting more involved, let us know!

The board has identified a variety of initiatives to help achieve these goals. The **key initiatives** are listed below, along with ways that you can help:

- Organizing a state conference that appeals to a broad spectrum of water resource professionals across our state. *Make sure to spread the word about the conference to your network of water resource professionals.*
- Using our new website/member database to improve communications with our members. *Please continue to provide feedback as we refine the website.*
- Building co-marketing relationships with other organizations that serve the water resource community. *Let us know if you work for an organization that would like increase your exposure to our membership.*
- Encouraging student participation by sponsoring student registration for dinner meetings and the state conference. *If you would like to start a student chapter we can help!*

We're interested in your feedback, please contact me at any time: skindred@aspectconsulting.com.

INSIDE:

2012 AWRA WASHINGTON STATE CONFERENCE: THE COLUMBIA RIVER, BASIN AND TREATY

September 11-13 in Ellensburg, WA

The Columbia River and its associated basin are of vital importance to the State of Washington and to the Pacific Northwest region as a whole. The Basin occupies more than 70 percent of the state and irrigates agriculture valued at over $1.5 Billion per year. The river is the fourth largest in North America, can generate more than 24,000 megawatts of hydropower along the main stem, transports 17 million tons of freight per year, is a link to over 10,000 miles of stream available to salmon and steelhead, and is a treasured cultural resource. In addition to the State of Washington, the Basin extends into six other U.S. states, and British Columbia.

The Columbia River Treaty between the United States and Canada in effect since 1964 may be drastically altered as early as 2024 with notice to do so permitted as early as 2014. The renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty will have dramatic impact on flood control, hydropower generation, ecological habitat, agricultural water supply, and recreational use of the Columbia River.

In addition to changes in the treaty and operation of the river, climate change and population grown are anticipated to compound existing water use and land use stresses on basin management. Numerous projects in the basin have been completed and are being considered in an effort to increase water reliability and instream habitat to meet the recovery goals of ESA Listed salmon and steelhead as well as the needs of water users. These projects are basin-wide.

The 2012 American Water Resources Association Washington State Conference will explore these topics, provide an overview of the treaty renegotiation process, and offer perspectives from stakeholders from both inside and outside the Washington border. The multi-day conference will include a field trip to key points of interest within the basin, including Grand Coulee Dam and the Quincy Canal, and two days of stimulating presentations, discussion and networking. Please check our website for updates (www.waawra.org).

EARLY BIRD PRICES –

Rates increase after August 20

Register Now!

Options/Type	Regular Professional	Agency/ Non-Profit	Student
2-day Registration	$250	$200	$75
1-day Registration	$175		
Dorm Lodging - 9/11 & 9/12 (limited number)	$75		
1-day Field Trip	$50		$30

Agenda

(subject to change)

September 11: Field Trip

- Waterville Plateau
- Grand Coulee Dam
- Banks Lake
- Bacon Siphon and Tunnel
- Quincy Canal and Soap Lake
- Weber Siphon
- Lunch included

September 12: The Columbia River Treaty

- Breakfast, lunch and BBQ dinner included
- The CRT in Context
- Current Treaty Operations and Expected and Potential Changes
- Post-2024 Expectations for Tributary Headwaters Management
- Keynote: A World Prematurely Dammed: Improving on the CRT & Other Hydrological Anachronisms
- Fish & Wildlife Impacts of the CRT and Potential Mitigation
- Social-Cultural Impacts of CRT and Potential Mitigation
- Climate Change and the CRT

September 13: The Columbia River Basin

- Breakfast and lunch included
- Tributary Restoration and Water Supply
- Columbia Basin Projects
- Columbia River Water Economics
- Passage, Metering and Screening

2012 AWRA WASHINGTON STATE CONFERENCE: THE COLUMBIA RIVER, BASIN AND TREATY (CONTINUED)

September 11-13 in Ellensburg, WA

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

A portion of the conference is open to presentation abstract submittals on topics related to the Columbia River Basin. You are encouraged to submit an abstract no longer than 300 words. Include your name, title, full address, phone number, and e-mail address. Submit the abstract on or before July 16, and send to Felix Kristanovich at fkristanovich@environcorp.com.

Thank you to our 2012 Sponsors!

SPONSORSHIP

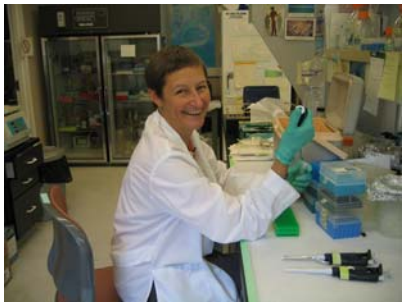
AWRA-WA is offering sponsorship opportunities for organizations that would like to demonstrate their commitment to water resources in Washington State. Each of the sponsorship levels include recognition at the conference, on the conference materials and website. For more information, please see the sponsorship web page at:

http://waawra.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1219861

Photo by Tom Ring

JUNE 5, 2012 DINNER MEETING: VIRUSES IN SALMON – INTRIGUING TRICKSTERS

Featuring Dr. Gael Kurath - Research Microbiologist, USGS Western Fisheries Research Center



For the last 20 years, Gael has been a research microbiologist for the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle, Washington. Her primary interest is investigating how aquatic viruses are transmitted across watersheds, and how they evolve in response to natural and human-induced selection pressures. Salmon viruses are a great system in which to study these interests, and her team's goal is to understand these viruses and reduce their disease impacts.

Gael will introduce some of the many fascinating viruses that infect fish, and then focus on three examples to illustrate important recent events in the Pacific Northwest fish viruses. These include IHN virus with a long history in our salmon, VHS virus that has emerged in the Great Lakes, and the recent reports of ISA virus detection in Pacific Salmon. We look forward to her presentation and an interesting conversation about how fish viruses impact Washington water resources.

Event Details: June 5, 2012

Pyramid Alehouse, 1201 First Avenue
South Seattle, WA 98134

Social 5:30, Dinner 6:15,

Presentation 7:00-8:00pm

REGISTRATION: Please **Register** and pay online at http://waawra.org/ or by check (payable to AWRA-WA Section) with your Name, Organization, Phone, Address and Email to: AWRA-WA, PO Box 2102, Seattle, WA 98111 by **June 1st**. Students FREE with sponsorship (limited quantity available). Inquiries? Contact Stephen Thomas at SDT@shanwil.com.

THE NEWS FROM OLYMPIA

Suzanne Skinner, Center for Environmental Law Policy and Policy

The Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) is Washington's Water Watchdog. CELP's goal is to bring science based management to water planning and law. CELP strives to achieve this goal by working directly with local citizens, environmentalists, and tribes in Washington and the Columbia basin on to help them protect their rivers, streams and aquifers. But CELP also works closely with state and local governments to improve water policies. That advocacy brought CELP to the legislature this last session.

As you may know, many Republicans and conservative Democrats called for water "reform" as the 2012 session began. "Reform" always sounds good when it comes to water policy—but certainly there were polar differences in what legislators called reform. Certainly from CELP's perspective, many of the so-called reforms undermined science-based water management and, flatly contradicted, long-standing principles of Washington water law.

To further this reform, legislators introduced a flurry of water reform bills this session. A list of the more significant bills follows at the close of this article. Only one substantive water bill passed: HB1381.

HB 1381, which the Governor has signed into law, stops the relinquishment clock for a developer who has filed a change application with Ecology, and is waiting for Ecology action. Relinquishment forces developers to use their water once permitted within 5 years or risk having to return the water to the public trust. Relinquishment embodies a cardinal principle of Western Water law: use it or lose it. Years ago, Washington codified relinquishment. That statute already has many exemptions that effectively allow folks to sit on their water rights for many years without using them. While tolling the relinquishment clock due to Ecology inaction is fair, it is important that the relinquishment statute remains strong and not shot full of exceptions. Relinquishment protects the public interest by returning unused water to rivers, streams and aquifers—it is good public policy for humans, and fish and wildlife.

So other than HB 1381, the Legislature's major action on water occurred in the budget. Two budgets are significant to water this year: the operating budget and the capital budget. The operating budget funds Ecology's Water Resources section. The section did not sustain major cuts—but the small staff cuts it incurred will likely hurt operations--the section is already understaffed from rounds of prior cuts. You only have to walk through Ecology offices in Lacey to witness the impacts: the empty cubicles appear to outnumber the filled ones. Moreover, the Operating Budget contained a proviso akin to one from last session, requiring the Water Resources section to issue 500 decisions on pending water rights permits. Ecology managed to make the goal last year. However, this upcoming year the legislature has made it more difficult by not allowing Ecology to count permits where the applicant withdraws the permit as can happen during the review process. There will be considerable pressure on Ecology to okay permit applications without sufficient scrutiny—at potential risk to current users in water-stressed areas.

The Capital Budget also contains a $2.25 million appropriation to purchase mitigation water in three water-short subbasins in the Skagit River Basin: the Fisher, the Carpenter and the Nookachamps. Up to $100,000 is tagged for demonstration projects for Low Impact Development techniques, such as cisterns and rain gardens. ESB 5127, Section 501, p. 22.

You might ask why the Skagit River Basin? Many basins in the state would relish an infusion of cash for mitigation water to supply new homes and development. The mitigation dollars for the Skagit appeared in the budget as a response to SB 6312. This bill, proposed by Senator Margaret Mary Haugen (D-Camano Island), carved out a permanent exemption for new domestic wells in the Skagit River basin—upending the instream flow protections established by the 2001 Skagit River instream flow rule, jumping ahead of all pending permits, and potentially conflicting with existing users. Senator Haugen proposed the bill in response to Ecology's closure of the Carpenter-Fisher subbasins of the Skagit River in Skagit County last summer, which in turn set off a water fight in Skagit County.

The scramble for water has a long, painful history in the Skagit—too long to fully recount here. In brief, the 2001 Skagit River instream flow rule is a science-based rule that incorporated groundwater. After its adoption, Skagit County challenged the rule. To settle Skagit County's lawsuit in 2004, Ecology amended the 2001 Rule to provide for an additional 25 cfs water (that had been allocated to instream flows) for new domestic, commercial, agricultural, stockwatering, and industrial uses. At the time, Ecology stated that once these reservations were used, the tributary subbasins would be closed to all new, unmitigated groundwater withdrawals.

In 2009, when the reservation for the Carpenter/Fisher close to exhausted, Ecology warned Skagit and Snohomish Counties not to issue land use permits there that relied upon exempt wells. In summer of 2011, Ecology finally closed the Carpenter-Fisher subbasins to new wells. Not only were the reservations gone, the counties had issued development permits that exceeded the reservations by almost 4,000 gallons per day. The Upper

Nookachamps subbasin reservation is almost completely spent.

The closure of the Fisher-Carpenter subbasins, and the impending closure of the Nookachamps basin, created an uproar because some property owners (and it is not clear how many) could not get building permits. These unfortunate folks were caught in our failure to balance environmental concerns, treaty rights, and the county's desire for new development in how we manage water and building permits. The Skagit demonstrates why Ecology, local governments, and all of us have to recognize that water is a limited resource, and plan accordingly—rather than making short-term political compromises that just kick the problem out a year or two. We can't have it all but we can have a lot. But we cannot make rational, sustainable water policy if basin by basin water disputes end up in the legislature.

Suzanne Skinner *is executive director for the Center for Environmental Law and Policy. She can be contacted via email at:* sskinner@celp.org

For those of you who want more: Here's a sampler of some of the water bills that died this session. They are likely to be back next year—it's going to be a longer session.

Bill	Description	CELP's Position	Status
SB 6311	Requiring legislative approval of water mitigation plans in rural areas	Opposed	**DEAD**
SB 6313	Making changes in terminology in water resource laws (some of which had policy consequences)	Serious concerns	**DEAD**
SB 6163	Requiring Ecology to investigate piping water from the Fraser River in BC to the Skagit River basin	Opposed	**DEAD**
SB 6152	Eliminating Ecology review of water conservancy board decisions and granting developers an automatic 5 year extension of their water permits.	Opposed	**DEAD**
HB 1297	Extending the "look back" period for relinquishment of unused water rights from the current 5 years to 15 years—allowing people to "sit on" their rights for longer.	Opposed	**DEAD**
HB 2410	Changing real estate transaction forms to put purchasers on notice that they might not be able to drill a permit exempt well in water short areas.	Supported (this was CELP's bill)	**DEAD (sadly)**

MEETING REVIEW: FLOW RESTORATION, MITIGATION AND WATER MARKETS

Talk Given By Susan Adams, Washington Water Trust
Review by Tyson Carlson, Aspect Consulting

Susan Adams, Executive Director of the Washington Water Trust (WWT), was the keynote presenter for the April 2012 AWRA-WA dinner meeting at the Pyramid Ale House. In her presentation, Susan described WWT's ongoing work to restore flows in Washington State rivers and streams through voluntary, market-based approaches utilizing the State Trust Water Right Program (TWRP) and emerging conservation and mitigation water markets.

Over the last several years in Washington State, water markets have developed in response to the relative scarcity of water in over allocated basins, especially 16 "fish-critical" basins designated by the Washington State Department of Ecology. These basins have established minimum instream flows, set by state rule, for the preservation of fish habitat. These instream flow rules limit – or even prohibit – the allocation of additional water for out-of-stream uses. This lack of water availability not only threatens fish and riparian species, but also limits local and regional economic growth.

Susan described how WWT works in cooperation with irrigators, conservation districts, municipalities, agencies, and tribes, to develop strategies that improve water availability. These strategies include lease, purchase, and donations of senior water rights that facilitate agricultural production and sustainable economic development, while also providing a net benefit to instream flows. These strategies are location specific, and often include multiple elements such as split-season or dry-year leasing, source substitution,

change of point of diversion, non-diversionary agreements, water banking and mitigation, and land conservation.

Implementation of the strategies to benefit instream flows often include use of the State TWRP. Under Chapters 90.38 RCW (specific to the Yakima Basin) and 90.42 RCW (State-wide), use of a water right in the TWRP for the purpose of instream flow is defined as a beneficial use, protecting the water right from statutory relinquishment for nonuse. While instream, the water right maintains the original (senior) priority date and is protected from reappropriation for other out-of-stream uses. In addition, trusting of a water right may be temporary or permanent, per agreement with the water right holder, and can include the entire right, or just a portion. Once the trust period ends, the water right reverts back to the owner having been put to full beneficial use for the entire duration of the trust period.

Susan described several examples of WWT's application of these conservation strategies around the state, including:

- **Teanaway River in the upper Yakima Basin** – Using a combination of split season leases and improvements in irrigation efficiency – including fallowing of pivot circle corners, rotational farming, and conveyance improvements – WWT has partnered with 21 landowners to increase instream flow by over 7 cubic feet per second (cfs) during fish critical periods;
- **Taneum Creek in the Yakima Basin** – Primarily through source substitution (surface to groundwater or irrigation district supply), WWT worked to restore 28.8 cfs and access to 30 miles of fish habitat, including removal of a 12-foot diversion structure (i.e. fish barrier) and 1.9 cfs of critical summer flow;
- **Touchet River in the Walla Walla Basin** – Through a combination of leases, purchases, and crop changes (i.e., from irrigated to dryland wheat), WWT helped to restore a total of 7 cfs of instream flow;
- **Salmon Creek in the Okanogan Basin** – In partnership with the Okanogan Irrigation District, WWT worked with Colville Tribes to restore flows in the seasonally dry creek, while still allowing the District to supply their 5,000 acre service area. The voluntary agreement allows salmon to now access 11 miles of habitat; and
- **Cascade Creek on Orcas Island** – WWT purchased water rights authorizing 0.25 cfs (summer) and 0.5 cfs (fall) for instream flows for the most significant salmon-bearing stream in the San Juan Islands. The result was increased critical instream flow for fish, while satisfying nearby domestic needs.

WWT has been involved in multiple mitigation projects across the state, including several water banks. A water bank is a mechanism that facilitates transfer of senior water rights between sellers and buyers. The source water right that is "banked" is held in the TWRP, protected from relinquishment, until it is formally transferred to the buyer. The currency of the water bank is measured in consumptive acre-feet of water. To secure a new use a buyer will purchase enough water from the bank to offset the consumptive impact of their proposed use, resulting in a neutral water budget. Because the banked right is typically a surface water irrigation right, the relatively large quantity of conveyance and/or return flow (i.e. nonconsumptive water) is no longer diverted, resulting in a measurable increase in instream flows.

Susan indicated that WWT is actively involved in water banking in the Upper Kittitas and Walla Walla Basins, and is currently evaluating water banking feasibility in the Dungeness and Skagit Basins in response to the pending instream flow rules.

WWT is an independent nonprofit organization with offices in Seattle and Ellensburg. Additional information on WWT, including additional information on projects, contact information, and events, including WWT's annual fund raising events, can be found at washingtonwatertrust.org.

The April dinner meeting was attended by numerous professionals in the public and private sector, including a new high-mark of seven students from the University of Washington, who took full advantage of AWRA-WA's commitment to offer free dinner meetings to all students. This is made possible by the support of our corporate sponsors.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WATER SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Urban Waters and the Puget Sound Institute hosted the 2012 University of Washington Water Symposium on April 18th. The symposium was held on the University of Washington's Seattle campus at the Center for Urban Horticulture, and included speakers and poster presentations on a variety of topics relevant to watershed science. Key subjects included riverine systems in marine and estuarine areas, the value of heterogeneity in freshwater environments, and the relationship between land use and water.

Lead speakers included Parker MacCready (UW School of Oceanography), Daniel Schindler (UW SAFS), Robert L. Edmonds (UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences), along with more than a dozen other scientists studying marine and aquatic environments around the world. Visit the symposium website: http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/center-urban-waters/2012-university-washington-water-symposium to see archives of the presentations.

The Best Poster winners were as follows:

Joe Hamman, UW Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: *Increases in Puget Sound Estuarine Flood Risk Under Climate Change*

Amy Yahnke, UW College of Forest Resources: *Amphibian Reproduction in Residential Stormwater Ponds: What's in it for the offspring? Surrounding Habitat and Residential Contaminants*

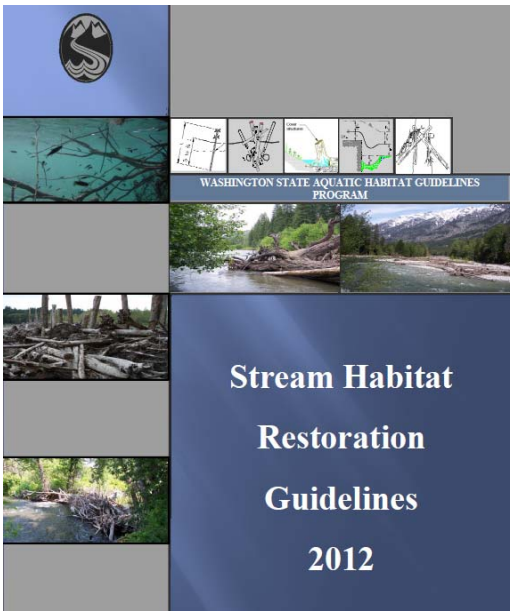
STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION GUIDELINES

The Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines is one of a series of guidance documents being developed by the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines (AHG) Program. AHG is a joint effort among state resource management agencies in Washington, including the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Transportation, and Natural Resources; the Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Puget Sound Partnership.

Excerpt from SHRG Chaper 1, reprinted with permission

Few endeavors in resource and environmental management in the Pacific Northwest are more compelling than rapidly expanding efforts to restore the region's streams and rivers. The region's history and strongly held values are inseparably intertwined with our streams and rivers. In coastal and inland settings, historic and current settlement and development patterns have centered on streams for transportation, residential, municipal, agricultural, and industrial water supply, power generation, and crop irrigation. Pacific Northwest streams and rivers, and their floodplains provide; food, construction aggregates, and recreational opportunities. Their floodplains provide relatively flat, fertile agricultural land and their forested riparian zones historically supplied timber. However, competing uses of stream corridors in modern society, combined with large-scale alteration of watersheds, have directly and indirectly impacted the abundance, quality, and stability of stream and riparian habitats. Streams, with their associated floodplain and riparian ecosystems compose the sole habitat, or critical habitat elements for a majority of the region's native fish and wildlife. Approximately 85% of Washington's terrestrial vertebrate wildlife species depend on riparian habitats for all or critical portions of their life histories. This rich floral and faunal biodiversity is the basis for much of the state's cultural heritage, economy, and famous quality of life.

After more than a century of adverse impacts from a multitude of economic activities following Euro-American settlement, recognition of the need to restore streams has spread throughout the Puget Sound region, coastal watersheds draining directly to the Pacific Ocean, and the entire Columbia River watershed. Much of this awareness and activity is



http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01374/

driven by the serious decline of the region's once robust anadromous runs of wild salmon, cutthroat, bull trout, smelt, and sturgeon. The accelerating interest in stream restoration also stems from a desire to restore wild populations of native resident salmonid fish species, including redband, cutthroat and bull trout, and other aquatic and riparian species, many of which have been listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and the Washington Wildlife Code.

Securing supplies of clean, cool water for a host of human and wildlife needs also depends on healthy stream systems in functionally intact watersheds. A majority of the state's major rivers and hundreds of tributary streams fail to attain federal and state water quality standards for a host of pollutants including heavy metals and toxic compounds and nutrients, and for temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and biological oxygen demand parameters. Great progress has been achieved in reducing industrial and municipal point sources of water pollution, yet a large challenge remains to achieve and maintain reductions of urban, rural and wildland sources of non-point water pollution. The purpose of the *Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines* (SHRG) is to promote process based natural stream restoration, rehabilitating aquatic and riparian ecosystems. These guidelines advance a watershed scale assessment of the stream system, establishing goals, objectives and design for restoring optimum sustainable native biodiversity, using principles of landscape ecology and integrated aquatic ecosystem restoration.

While a number of specific watershed assessment, characterization, project design and construction approaches are presented in this volume, these guidelines do not offer a "cookbook" approach that provides every step and equation along the way. Rather, the intent is to provide Chapter 1. Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines 1-2 readers with a comprehensive list of factors and criteria to consider, which are essential to make informed decisions when planning and designing stream restoration and rehabilitation work. **Readers are strongly cautioned not to pluck and apply individual techniques from these guidelines without first conducting the necessary watershed and reach based assessments and analysis.** The techniques presented in these guidelines are not meant to limit the designer. Other innovative stream restoration techniques may exist and are sure to be developed and included in future editions of this document.

Topics addressed in the SHRG include site, reach, and watershed assessment, problem identification, general approaches to restoring stream and riparian habitat, factors to consider in identifying and selecting an approach, approaches to solving common restoration objectives, and stream and riparian habitat restoration techniques. Watershed processes and conditions that shape stream channels, stream ecology, geomorphology, hydrology, hydraulics, planting considerations and erosion control, and construction considerations are also presented in the main text and appendices.

Suggested Citation:

Cramer, Michelle L. (managing editor). 2012. Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines. Co-published by the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation and Ecology, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Puget Sound Partnership, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Olympia, Washington.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WATER RESOURCES

This award is for outstanding contribution to the water resources profession in the State of Washington. We plan to honor an individual at the State Conference Award Luncheon. Current Chapter members are encouraged to send in a nominating letter for themselves or another candidate. The letter must contain an explanation of how the candidate specifically meets the below criteria. An individual need not satisfy all of the criteria, and other appropriate factors brought up WILL be considered.

- Outstanding contribution or achievement in the water resources field (broadly defined) within the State of Washington.
- Leadership, so that others are enabled, inspired or organized to advance the understanding, management or wise use of water resources.
- Degree of innovation.
- Interdisciplinary or bridge-building qualities.

Any person may be nominated for this award, but only current State Chapter members may submit a nomination. The nomination letter or e-mail must be received by **July 15, 2012**. The winner will be awarded a handsome plaque commemorating the honor. In addition, the AWRA Board will make a donation to a water-related, nonprofit organization of the individual's choosing. You may submit your nomination to:

Pete Sturtevant, Awards Committee
c/o CH2M HILL
PO Box 91500, Bellevue, WA 98009-2050
psturtev@ch2m.com

There are lots of people out there working hard to protect and enhance Washington's water resources. This is your chance to bring some much-deserved recognition to one of them.

AWRA Events

The Washington Section of AWRA holds regular dinner meetings, including a social hour, dinner, and a speaker.

State Events – http://waawra.org/

Section Dinner Meeting, June 5, 2012, Viruses in Salmon - Intriguing Tricksters, Pyramid Ale House, Seattle, WA

State Conference, September 11-13, 2012 The Columbia River, Basin and Treaty, Ellensburg, WA

National Events – www.awra.org

June 25-29, 2012 AWRA National's 2012 Summer Specialty Conferences, Denver, CO: Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Water Resources II: and Riparian Ecosystems IV

Other Water Resources Events

USGS Tacoma Water Science Seminars: http://wa.water.usgs.gov/seminar/seminar.html

UW Water Seminar 2012, free and open to the public, Tuesdays, Anderson Hall 223, 8;30 to 9:20a.m http://www.cfr.washington.edu/courses/waterseminar_Wtr12.pdf

May 20-24, 2012, Land Grant & Sea Grant National Water Conference, Portland, OR. www.usawaterquality.org/conferences/2012/default.html

May 30, 2012, Getting into Hot Water: What's New in Water Transfers and Markets. Seattle, WA. Co-hosted by Washington Water Trust and the Center for Environmental Law and Policy http://www.celp.org/

June 4, 2012 Environmental Law Education Center Oregon Water Quality Conference: Toxics, Standards, TMDLs & Permits, Portland. www.elecenter.com

June 13-14, 2012, NEBC Oregon Brownfields Conference, Portland, OR. www.nebc.org

June 13, 2012, CELP, A Celebration of Water and Salmon, Ivar's Salmon House, North Lake Union, Seattle http://www.celp.org/

June 21-22, 2012, NEBC Washington Brownfields Conference, Spokane, WA. www.nebc.org

June 29, 2012, Environmental Law Education Center Toxics in Washington Conference, Seattle. www.elecenter.com

July 30-August 3, 2012: The Washington Water Trust invites you to the Salmon River Dory Trip on A 5-day, 70-mile dory trip down the lower gorge of the Salmon River with a portion of the trip price going to support continued stream flow restoration in Washington. : http://washingtonwatertrust.org

August 4, 2012, Deschutes River Conservancy River Feast, Smith Rock, OR. www.deschutesriver.org/get-involved/events/2012_riverfeast

Links To Other Local Water Resources Related Associations

Washington Hydrologic Society http://wahydro.org

Washington Water Research Center: www.swwrc.wsu.edu/conferences.asp

Seattle ASCE Water Resources: http://seattleasce.org/committees/water_resources.html

Center for Environmental Law and Policy: http://www.celp.org/

Northwest Environmental Business Council: http://nebc.org

Washington Water Trust: http://washingtonwatertrust.org

The Water Report: http://thewaterreport.com/

2012 AWRA-WA BOARD MEMBERS

President: **Scott Kindred**
(206) 838-6589
skindred@aspectconsulting.com

Vice-President: **Dustin Atchison**
(425) 453-0730
dustin.atchison@ch2m.com

Treasurer: **Megan Kogut**
(206) 685-3759
mbkogut@gmail.com

Secretary: **Colleen Rust**
(206) 826-4652
Colleen.Rust@hartcrowser.com

Editor: **Jennifer Saltonstall**
(425) 827-7701
jsaltonstall@aesgeo.com

Past President: **Beth Peterson**
(425) 450-6286
Beth.Peterson@hdrinc.com

Director: **Tyson Carlson**
(206) 838-5832
tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com

Director: **Steven Hughes**
(206) 826-4474
Steve.Hughes@hartcrowser.com

Director: **Tyler Jantzen**
(425) 453-5000
Tyler.Jantzen@CH2M.com

Director: **Felix Kristanovich**
(206) 336-1681
fkristanovich@environcorp.com

Director: **Stan Miller**
(509) 455-9988
samillerh2o@comcast.net

Director: **Tom Ring**
(509) 865-4946
ringt@yakama.com

Director: **Matt Stumbaugh**
matt.stumbaugh@gmail.com

Director: **Bailey Theriault**
(425) 883-0777
Bailey_Theriault@golder.com

Director: **Stephen Thomas**
(206) 267-1166
SDT@shanwil.com

Director: **Kristina Westbrook**
(206) 296-5279
kwestb@gmail.com

UW Student Rep: **Brian Henn**
brianhenn@gmail.com

UW Faculty Advisor:
Bob Edmonds
bobe@u.washington.edu

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