

# Tenmile Treasures

A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK  
WATERSHED

Healthy Streams  
Neighbor to Neighbor

Tenmile Treasures - Winter 2005

Happy New Year to you and your families. With the closing of the apple harvest season, it is time to return attention to the Tenmile Creek watershed. There is much catching up to do. Mark Twain once said, "I never met a man who was *angry and well informed*". Thank you for becoming more informed and for *helping me become more informed*, so together, we can make a difference in our watershed.

Update: "Are We Making a Difference?"

The Tenmile Creek watershed is blessed with friends and funding. The goal of the Tenmile Creek Watershed Project is to help landowners meet their needs for land use and also meet the needs of the watershed. There is a firm belief that landowners will do what makes sense to protect our watershed. You have proved this time and again. Since 2001:

- 35 landowners have new planting projects on their land
- Approximately 5 miles (25,000 linear feet) of stream have been planted on both sides with trees and shrubs
- 4,800 linear feet are in the planning stages for this year
- 6 sites have received "large woody debris" for fish habitat
- One site had a fish barrier removed and a bridge put in place
- 6 monitoring stations were installed on private lands to monitor water quality
- Students from Meridian High School and Lynden High School have grown native plants for the watershed
- Local farmers have donated their land, time and expertise to grow 42,000 seedlings that have been planted along the streams (6000 is target to be replanted this March).

Because we can get things done, we have been awarded a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two grants from WA Dept. of Ecology.

These grants would not be available to us if it were not for YOU! Over 100 people in our watershed have gotten involved in making this a healthier watershed. The Tenmile Creek community thanks each one of you.

But now we have work to do. We have funds for stream restoration that can improve your site without taking money from your pocket. We just need your input. Call to make an appointment today. We start by walking your stream and learning from you. Plans will be made and planting will be done next fall or spring. Phone: 398-9187.



The picture to the left, contributed by Buford Waschke, is a Ford tractor with a pull along combine, not a bailer. I goofed. Thanks for calling in!

Berries, Ice Cream and Stories Down By The Stream - August 27th, 2004

We heard stories, we shared stories, we walked the creek, and we ate ice cream and berries. Seventy-seven individuals participated in the Tenmile Creek watershed

history event in August. Topics shared included the old schools, the jobs back then, the means of travel and just what life was like. We talked about how the physical appearance of the stream is different today. Back then they saw more beaver and beaver ponds, which made great swimming holes and a more complex system. Holding back the creek naturally keeps more water in the creeks during the summer months. One memory stirred up three more. Heartfelt thanks to all those who attended, those who shared their stories, and those who helped make it all possible. Black Dog Productions taped the evening. The original will be archived at the Lynden Pioneer Museum. One copy will be available to share. Just give me a call at 398-9187.

Dont let good stories go to waste . . . share them. We will keep them alive through tapes and transcriptions, which are archived at the Lynden Pioneer Museum.

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Winter 2005

#### Tenmile Advisory Committee

Jason Vander Veen, Landowner

Kevin Sterk, Landowner

Dan Thompson, Landowner

Mike Murphy, Landowner/PUD

Susie Nelson, Volunteer

Craig MacConnell, WSU

George Boggs, WCD

Henry Bierlink, APC

John Gillies, NRCS

Steve Seymour, WDFW

Darrell Gray, NSEA

In partnership with WCD, NSEA,  
WA Dept. of Ecology, & NFWF

Project Manager: Dorie Belisle

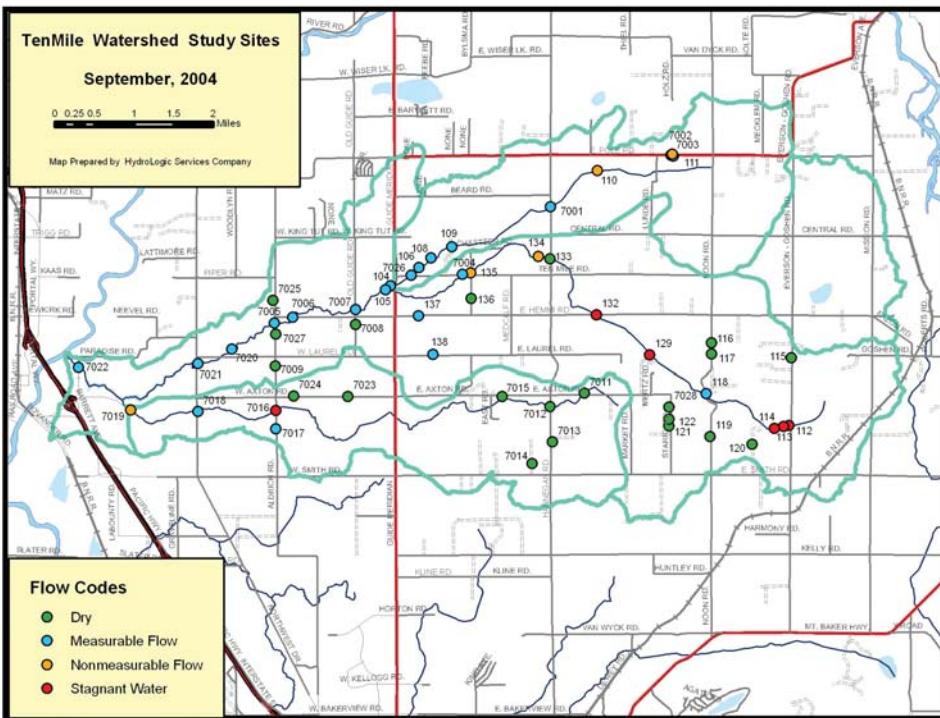
"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground."

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Free Trees for your Streams  
 the first three Saturdays in March! -  
 See insert for details.

**A Little Science: What We Learned Last Summer**

Between July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 2004, when we were experiencing low flows, 30 sites were visited to measure discharge, dissolved oxygen and temperature. Many of the sites were dry or contained stagnant water. A main priority of the study was to identify stretches of the creek that go dry and document these reaches for subsequent analysis of the interaction between ground and surface water as well as effects from water use. In addition, the location of spring-fed reaches were documented and measured. See map.



A few things we learned: 1) The elevation ranges from just over 300 feet at the headwaters to 20 feet at the confluence with the Nooksack River. 2) Following an extremely wet Oct., the winter through early summer of 2004 was characterized by drier than normal precipitation. 3) It was also warmer than normal in 2004 from January through July. 4) Dissolved oxygen and temperature will be plotted against distance from the mouth at a later date. 5) Silver Springs (also known as Crystal Springs) contributed just over 20% of the flow to the Tenmile system.

6) Deer Creek was dry until the input from Larrabee Springs entered Deer Creek as it crossed Aldrich Road near the lower third of the watershed. Now I need YOU! Many of you returned last month's survey - Thank you! We still need more participation. Please take a second and send in the survey below. It is especially important for the areas around Silver Springs and Larrabee Springs. Your help is much appreciated.

The complete "Tenmile Study - Summer 2004" 6-page report will be mailed upon request. Send me an email or phone call. Please leave complete address.

Please complete the form and mail it to: Tenmile Project, 231 Tenmile Road, Lynden, WA 98264  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What creek (or tributary of) do you live near? Circle one: Tenmile, Deer, Fourmile, Silver (Crystal) Springs How long have you lived there? \_\_\_ years

Do you collect rainfall data? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you have a well on your property \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Does your well go dry? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Does your section of the creek go dry? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Is this normal? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you know of any springs on your land? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No (A spring is defined as an issuance of water from the earth. It needs to see to daylight to be called a spring.)

Do you know of any fish barriers on any of the creeks \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, please share the location. \_\_\_\_\_