



Dear Reader:

As a requirement of grant funding received from the state Department of Ecology, I mailed out a survey in April to 480 people who own property along the creeks in the Tenmile Creek watershed. The survey was to help evaluate the effectiveness of the project. A total of 73 replies were returned, which amounts to 16%. THANK YOU!

By scrolling down to page 2, you can read the survey and comments in its entirety. However, with the help of Dr. Pamela Jull at Applied Research Northwest, we summarized the findings.

- Three quarters (3/4) of you believe that the Tenmile Creek watershed effort keeps you well informed of the water quality improvement activities in the watershed. You also believe that this effort is not a waste of time.
- Two thirds (2/3) of you believe that the Tenmile Creek watershed effort has made a difference in the way you view the watershed and you indicated that it helps you understand the way the watershed works ecologically.

We saw change in a positive, but statistically insignificant, direction, for beliefs that:

- Your actions on your property help or harm water quality in creeks and in the watershed.
- The value of your property would increase if water quality in the creeks were improved.
- Certain activities are important for improving water quality, including activities such as planting trees and shrubs along stream banks, protecting wetlands, collecting stormwater runoff, and making sure your septic systems are in good working order.

In terms of measuring change in attitude from 2002 to 2005:

- Just over 83% of you now believe that changes to improve water quality can go hand in hand with your land use needs, versus 63% of you believed that in 2002.
- Fifty-one percent (51%) said that you now feel more strongly about leaving the next generation a healthier ecosystem within our Tenmile Creek watershed and about having farming around in the future.
- Approximately 35% of respondents said that the health of the Tenmile Creek watershed matters more to you, that the community we have in the Tenmile Creek watershed is important, and that as a member of this community, we all have a part to play in restoration.

If you permit a moment of reflection: *I think we are “growing” into a Tenmile community. Over 100 of you have shared your time and concerns with me and with each other. We may not always agree, but we are talking and we are listening. I firmly believe that forming a relationship with each other and with the land we share will ensure leaving a healthier Tenmile watershed for the next generations. Thank you. Dorie*

Thank you for visiting the Whatcom CD web page and the Tenmile Site. Please call or email if you have any question or comments.

Sincerely,
Dorie Belisle, Project Manager

Healthy Streams: Neighbor to Neighbor Survey

Here are the results of the survey April 2005 sent to the landowners who own property along the creeks in the Tenmile Creek watershed. 480 surveys were sent out. 73 were returned (16% return). My thanks to all the Tenmile community members, who took the time to share their thoughts.

Dorie Belisle, Project Manager. (6/04/05)

I. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Again, your responses are anonymous. Results will be used to judge the effectiveness of education and water quality improvement efforts through the Tenmile Creek Watershed Project and our attempt to have *Healthy Streams: Neighbor to Neighbor*.

(N=Number that replied)

1. What is the approximate size of your property in acres (circle one)? <1 (7.2%) 1-10 (47.1%) 11-50 (28.6)
>50 (17.1%) N=70
2. How would you describe the primary use of your property? Check one: residence (58.0%), farming (34.7%), industrial (0%), income rental (1.4%), open space, (4.3%), other (Forestry) (1.4%).N=69
3. Do you raise any livestock? **Yes (46.2%) no (53.6%) If "yes" for personal use (18.8%) for profit (14.4%)
Did not check (13.0%)** N=69
4. How many years have you/your family owned your property? **1-10 Years (17.1%) 11-50years (58.2%) >50 years (24.2%)** N=70
5. Which stream or creek, if any, runs through or near your property? Tenmile, including tributaries and ditches (54.0%) Fourmile Creek (9.5%), Tenmile and Fourmile Creeks (1.4%), Deer Creek (24.6%), Starry Creek (1.6%), Other (4.8%) N=61
6. In what part of the watershed is your property? (check one) **Upper (east of Noon) (12.7%); Middle (between the Guide Meridian and Noon) (43.7%); Lower (west of the Guide Meridian) (43.7%)** N=71

II. The Tenmile Creek Watershed Restoration project has been learning and growing for three years. Please rate the progress of this effort.

- | | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
|--|-------|------------|----------|
| 1. The Tenmile Creek watershed effort has made a difference in the way I view the watershed. N=70 | 68.6% | 21.4% | 10.0% |
| 2. The Tenmile Creek watershed effort helps me understand the way the watershed works ecologically. N=59 | 83.1% | 0% | 16.9% |
| 3. The Tenmile Creek watershed effort keeps me well informed of the water quality improvement activities in the watershed. N=72 | 76.4% | 13.9% | 9.7% |
| 4. The Tenmile Creek watershed effort is a waste of time and money. N=73 | 12.3% | 13.7% | 74% |

III. Understanding personal attitudes is important in addressing watershed and water quality issues. Please share your opinions about the following (circle your answer):

- | | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
|--|-------|------------|----------|
| 1. Improving water quality in my stream is important to me. N=72 | | | |
| 2005 | 87.5% | 12.5% | 0% |
| 2002 | 83% | 14% | 0% |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2. The health of my stream banks affects water quality in the Nooksack River. N=72 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 79.2% | 16.7% | 4.2% |
| | 2004 | 80% | 13% | 6% |
| | | | | |
| 3. I believe my actions on my property help or harm water quality in the creek and in the watershed. N=71 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 80.3% | 14.1% | 5.6% |
| | 2002 | 75% | 15% | 10% |
| | | | | |
| 4. Saving salmon is important to me. N=71 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 77.5% | 16.9% | 5.6% |
| | 2002 | 80% | 13% | 7% |
| | | | | |

Comment: NOT more important than the livelihood of people.
Tenmile Creek has never had salmon in it.

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 5. I believe my property value would increase if water quality in the creek was improved. N=71 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 40.8% | 32.4% | 26.8% |
| | 2002 | 32% | 36% | 31% |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6. Changes to improve water quality can go hand in hand with my land use. N=72 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 83.3% | 12.5% | 4.2% |
| | 2002 | 63.3% | 15% | 22% |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 7. A community working together can improve water quality in a watershed. N=71 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 91.5% | 7% | 1.4% |
| | 2002 | 94% | 5% | 2% |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 8. The best way to improve water quality is through government regulations. N=67 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 6.0% | 23.9% | 70.1% |
| | 2002 | 12% | 21% | 66% |
| | | | | |

Comments: There is no best way; it is a multifaceted approach.
I think both a carrot and a stick.
Complex answer is required.

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9. The best way to improve water quality is through community effort with some financial assistance from the government. N=71 | 2005 | Agree | No Opinion | Disagree |
| | | 80.3% | 11.3% | 8.5% |
| | 2002 | 79% | 8% | 13% |
| | | | | |

IV. Below are activities that landowners may do to improve water quality in the stream that runs through or near their property. How important do you think each of the following is to improve water quality in the Tenmile Creek watershed?

| | | Very Important | Important | No Opinion | Probably Not Important | Not At All Important |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Plant native trees and shrubs along stream banks. N=72 | 2005 | 45.8% | 38.9% | 5.5% | 5.5% | 4.2% |
| | 2002 | 33% | 38% | 12% | 9% | 9% |
| 2. Install or leave large woody debris in the stream. N=71 | 2005 | 15.5% | 39.4% | 21.1% | 12.7% | 11.3% |
| | 2002 | 6% | 33% | 25% | 19% | 17% |
| Comment: Clearly worded to get the response you want. | | | | | | |
| 3. Protect/restore wetland areas. N=69 | 2005 | 31.9% | 33.3% | 17.4% | 10.1% | 7.2% |
| | 2002 | 14% | 29% | 25% | 18% | 13% |

| | | Very Important | Important | No Opinion | Probably Not Important | Not At All Important |
|--|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4. Collect storm water runoff from buildings and direct it away from livestock holding areas. N=70 | 2005 | 38.6% | 35.7% | 20.0% | 2.9% | 2.9% |
| | 2002 | 14% | 37% | 19% | 18% | 11%5 |
| Comments: Clean out stream bed so water can run. | | | | | | |
| 5. Create retention or catch basins to collect runoff. N=70 | 2005 | 21.4% | 35.7% | 35.7% | 5.7% | 1.4% |
| | 2002 | 16% | 34% | 25% | 14% | 11% |
| 6. Make sure septic systems are in good working condition. N=71 | 2005 | 59.2% | 32.4% | 7.0% | 1.4% | 0% |
| | 2002 | 52.2% | 36% | 6.2% | 3.2% | 0% |

V. Reflecting over the past 3 years, how has the importance of the following issues changed for you personally, if at all? Circle one.

| | More Important | Stayed the same | Less Important |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. How important leaving the next generations a healthier ecosystem within our Tenmile Creek watershed is. N=72 | 54.2% | 45.8% | 0% |
| 2. How important the continuance of farming in the Tenmile Creek Watershed is. N=71 | 49.3% | 43.7% | 7.0% |
| 3. How much the physical health of the streams in the Tenmile Creek watershed matters to me. N=71 | 38.0% | 62.0% | 0% |
| 4. How much responsibility I have as a member of the Tenmile community to be part of restoration. N=71 | 35.2% | 60.6% | 4.2% |
| 5. How important the community that is defined as the Tenmile Creek watershed is. N=70 | 34.3% | 65.7% | 0% |
| 6. How much responsibility the County has to restore the health of our watershed. N=72 | 26.4% | 65.3% | 8.3% |
| 7. How much responsibility the State/Federal governments have to restore the health of our watershed. N=71 Comment: . . .making houses stand in water along the Guide Meridian. Now who wants that? | 16.9% | 64.8% | 18.3% |

Speak Your Mind!

- A big job! Good Luck!
- As a youngster growing up in this area we caught edible trout from Ten/4 mile creeks- Dammed the creeks to create swimming holes. In the 50's and 60's there was much foliage along the creeks and natural holding areas fro the fist. I'm afraid the negative progress of farming has removed much of the above. The efforts to restore are warranted and we're seeing some positive results.
- I just wanted to thank-you for all the information and the free trees!
- It would be nice to have more crossing sites available as well. As sources for wild birds or wild bird boxes...perhaps a countywide scout project..."Home Building is for the Birds." Note to neighborhood chairpersons gets info (simple plans and goals of...50 houses for 2006 Spring) Into hands of leaders.

- Let owners of the land near the creek have the lion's share of being good stewards. Voice of many who are uneducated to my land holdings in the system should not dictate what I own and pay for- would extremely affect the value and use of my property! I pay for it change it then compensate me for it
- None, (big) waste of money and time.
- Project amounts to busy work for the unemployed creating flood area and turning farm land into swampland
- Some of the questions in the survey suggest government involvement. My view is that government too often imposes rules that are expensive and unjustifiable. I am very cautious when it comes to government involvement in many of the land use issues.
- Ten Mile Creek never dried up all the years we lived on it until you do gooders let a golf course, a fish processing plant, 2 schools started taking water from the aquifer in the Ten Mile Basin, since these so called fish friendly places started up the Ten Mile has dried up every year, and you people say that this area of the creek is a low water area. That's water and you can't have fish with all the predators you want to save as of your not allowing trapping of otters, mink that eat mostly fish, and of coarse those Blue Herons they eat their weight in fish every day, we had plenty of water and trout before.
- Thank you for the time and effort you put into the guidance of this restoration!
- The more building we do the more we to harm the watershed, the creek's we need to stop and the building service that's not possible there needs to be a plan put in place to prevent any further problems with the building that will pollute our water's and streams. We really need to stop and think about what were doing to our future, not what or how we can live our pockets right now.
- The progress that was made with 4 Mile Creek should be proof positive that farmers can make a difference. The Ten Mile Creek needs to be dredged and planted just like the 4-mile creek was! The Ten Mile floods way too much and way too often
- They did a very good job fit my place worked well with me. Thanks.
- This Landowner-driven, community Project is a great model for riparian restoration and water quality improvements. It should be taken county wide. To other sensitive and currently impaired areas we need are done besides. Need funds for them to train other watershed stewards.
- Until the creek is clean (on Hemmi Rd.) everything else is a big waste of time and money.
- Until the creek is cleaned everything else is a waste of time and money!
- We have multiple properties. A portion of Deer Creek runs through a property that is not our primary residence and has not had much attention in the past several years. We think Dorie is doing a great job and exerting tremendous effort on this project.
- We need to get 4-mile creek in the Creek Program!
- You cannot improve the quality of water unless there is water in the stream. My concern is that there is too much water taken out of streams, thus too little water left to function as a salmon stream, regardless if the quality is okay. There must be quantity.
- Your doing a great job on this project
- You are starting at the wrong end – start at the mouth of the river.
- Where they are netting them and leaving nets in with fish dead and selling them cheap.
- After they have all of it, and it is un-farmable, they can pay taxes on land that is a swamp.

*On behalf of the Tenmile Community, I wish to thank Dr. Pamela Jull
for her help and expertise.*

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