

Tenmile Treasures

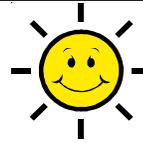
A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK
WATERSHED

Healthy Streams
Neighbor to Neighbor

Welcome Summer

We think of summer as a time to slow down a bit and "smell the roses". Taking the time to reflect is important to all of us. As I reflect on the results of the survey, I judge that we are "growing" into the Tenmile community. We are learning how to share our concerns and fears and are learning how to listen to each other. The Tenmile community faces challenges as we look at how we use our land and protect it. The next issue of the Tenmile Treasures will be a *State of the Health Report for the Tenmile Creek Watershed*. It will discuss results of water quality testing (temperature, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform), restoration progress, and who we are. That will be the first edition that will be circulated to all the property owners in the watershed, not just landowners along creeks.



Volume 3, Issue 2
Summer 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

Tenmile Survey Results are In!

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!**

Many people took time to comment. Please read their responses in the complete survey, found on Whatcom Conservation District's web page at www.whatcomcd.org, within the Tenmile Watershed category. Or simply call or email me (doriebelisle@yahoo.com) and I will send it in the mail.

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.

Tenmile Creek Watershed: The Story of its people and their land

Have you ever picked chickens? Cecilia Benson's mom did to support her family. "My mother picked chickens. It was no easy chore because she had to be there at 7:00am - there was no bus so she had to walk to Lynden. They worked until 7:00pm. Then she would walk home. She got a penny a piece for picking chickens. She'd pick 300 in a day."

We are now interviewing our tenth "Senior". It is fascinating to hear their stories. We could do so many more if we had help transcribing the tapes. **Do you have some extra quiet time and would like to help type? We have the transcription machines that make it easy. Thanks for considering . . . Call 398-9187.**

Dorie Belisle
 231 Ten Mile Rd
 Lynden, WA 98264
 Phone: (360) 398-9187
 Email: doriebelisle@yahoo.com
 www.whatcomcd.org

Tenmile Creek watershed survey results are in!

Trees for Streams - 9,400 trees went in the ground



County-wide over two hundred families took advantage of the free trees grown for us by local farmers. With time and hard labor 9,400 trees were planted along our rivers, stream, lakes, ponds and wetlands to improve water quality and the health of our watershed. In the Tenmile Creek Watershed, 35 landowners participated planting 1807 trees. What a watershed! The Meridian High FFA and several community members donated over 130 hours to make this project happen. Thanks from all of us.

CREP finds a new home in FOURMILE and DEER CREEK
 CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) is the only program available where you can RECEIVE AN ANNUAL RENT for allowing us to install tree and shrub buffers on your stream. While it has been available to Tenmile Creek from the beginning, it is scheduled to become available in late June 2005 for Fourmile Creek and Deer Creek. It is a VOLUNTARY program for properties that are in agriculture or have a history of being in agriculture. The minimum buffer width is 35 feet while the maximum is 180 feet. You can choose a 10 or 15-year contract. Not sure if it is for you? Lets walk and talk about it. Call Dorie 398-9187.

Did you see any Salmon last fall?

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) just released the results of their salmon spawner surveys taken October through December 2004. The complete report is available at the NSEA office (715-0283) or you can borrow the Tenmile copy (398-9187).

Creek Name	Chinook			Coho			Chum		
	Live Count	Dead Count	Redd Count	Live Count	Dead Count	Redd Count	Live Count	Dead Count	Redd Count
Deer, lower 2004	0	0	0	43	7	16	3	3	1
2003	0	0	0	45	6	18	3	3	1
Deer, upper 2004	0	0	0	113	25	17	0	1	0
2003	0	0	0	8	1	11	0	0	0
Silver Springs 2004	0	1	0	42	16	11	1	0	1
2003	2	7	1	59	4	22	0	0	1
Ten Mile 2004	0	0	0	0	4	7	1	1	0
2003	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total Redds 2004			1			51			2
2003			1			52			2

A conservative estimate of spawner numbers in survey reaches equals redd count times one pair of spawners, resulting in population estimates below.

2004 - 1+ chinook		102+ coho		4+ chum	
2003 - 1+chinook		104+coho		4+ chum	

Protocol: By Melissa Roberts (NSEA)
 From Oct 5th - Jan 14th, we walked downstream to upstream in order to minimize disturbing the clarity of the water, and to see the fish before they sensed us. We attempted to survey each stream within a 7-10 day period, depending on weather, flow conditions and water clarity. Stream reaches were chosen for spawning bed characteristics. We surveyed the same reaches each year to have a tool for comparison. For each survey, we count live, dead and redds, by species. In certain streams we also collect otoliths (ear bones used to determine age and whether they are hatchery or not) and scales for further biological sampling. Conditions this year on the bigger streams (Bertrand, Fishtrap, and Ten Mile) were somewhat unfavorable for surveying. People involved in the 2004 survey included Marshall Kane, Michael Masters and Randall Clark, (Bellingham Technical College, NSEA staff and WDFW staff. We hope that these surveys comparing year to year results can augment surveys done by state fisheries co-managers (tribes and WDFW) and provide insight into the health of streams in the Lower Nooksack Basin.