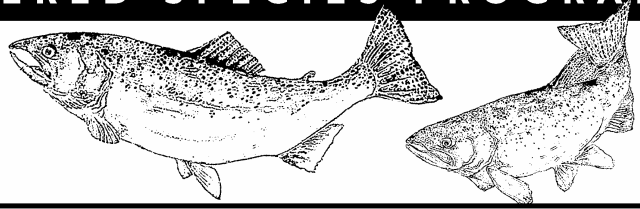


newsletter

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January 2009

Thanks for the memories

As a result of county-wide budget reductions, the ESA Program has lost a valuable employee. John Tyler has worked on salmon recovery at Clark County for nearly ten years. In the beginning, he surveyed county operations for possible salmon impacts and began to define what salmon need in Clark County. That helped lay the groundwork for defining the county's role in the regional recovery plan and he recently worked on plan implementation. In conjunction with the Road Operations Department, John successfully put together a road maintenance program that has been certified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as compliant with the Endangered Species Act. Environmental education and outreach to student and adult groups both within and outside of the classroom have been a particular focus as well.

The ESA Program will be diminished by his departure. We wish John Tyler well.

More ESA transitions

There are other personnel transitions taking place in the ESA Program. Joni McAnally, who has provided administrative support to the program since March 2000, has accepted a position within the Public Information and Outreach office in Clark County. Taking her place is Elaine Bean who has been with the county since January 2008.

We wish Joni luck in her future endeavors and warmly welcome Elaine to the ESA Program.

2009 Sammy's

Clark County is seeking nominations for the 2009 Clark County Sammy Awards which



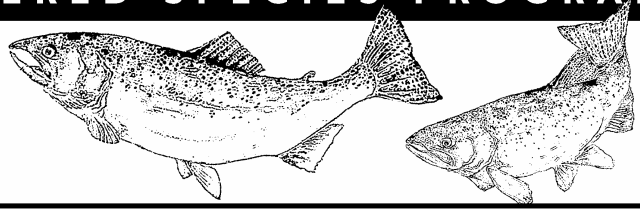
Michael Hutchins was one of six recipients at the 2008 Clark County Sammy Awards

will take place **June 11 at the City of Vancouver Water Resource Center**. As in years past, we are looking for nominations of volunteer activities that might include habitat restoration projects, education and outreach programs, grassroots or neighborhood association projects, special or lifetime achievement for individuals with a long-term commitment to salmon recovery, or businesses that have implemented salmon-friendly practices.

A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience or you can submit an online form accessible on our Web site: www.saveoursalmon.com. Additional paper nomination forms can be requested by calling: 397-2022, ext. 2. The deadline for nominations is March 13. If you know of someone who deserves a Sammy then we look forward to hearing from you soon!

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ESA program update

The ESA Program continues to assist implementation of the Salmon Recovery and Watershed Plans as directed by the Board of County Commissioners last spring.

- Several Agricultural/Habitat Protection Plans have been written and recorded (40.440.040). More are in the works. We are also involved with a statewide committee that is directed by the legislature to develop ways to protect habitat on agricultural lands while keeping farms viable.
- We continue to develop the off-site mitigation program currently known as the Mitigation Marketplace. Once up and running, this program will link developers needing off-site mitigation with willing landowners whose property has high environmental values.
- The Mitigation Marketplace project can also be expanded to provide information to landowners about the roles their property plays within the ecology of the watershed. We'll have more about this in future newsletters.
- Refresher training for county road maintenance crews has been completed. In classroom and field work, they were shown ways to conduct operations to avoid impacts to fish and their habitat. Clark County's road maintenance program has been certified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as compliant with the ESA. An application for re-certification was recently submitted.
- We are also working to establish watershed-based Cumulative Effects Funds to address the many small but un-mitigated environmental effects of developments that may collectively result in environmental degradation. It's

an attempt to avoid "death by a thousand cuts". The funds are provided for in the county's wetlands and habitat protection ordinances, but the details haven't yet been developed. Ultimately, these funds may be used for restoration projects at environmentally high-valued locations.

- We continue to work with stakeholders in the East Fork watershed to develop a comprehensive recovery strategy and project list.

The county budget process has been completed, and the ESA Program budget has been reduced as have all county departments. In our case, however, a key position has been eliminated, resulting in decreased capacity. (See the article about John Tyler in this newsletter.) Our educational and outreach program will be reduced, our road maintenance project transferred completely to Public Works, and our ability to respond to new project requests will be limited. However, our work on implementing the Salmon Recovery and Watershed Plans will continue. By integrating our work and information into county operations, we have already begun to make a difference. Strengthening that integration over the coming year will be a program priority.

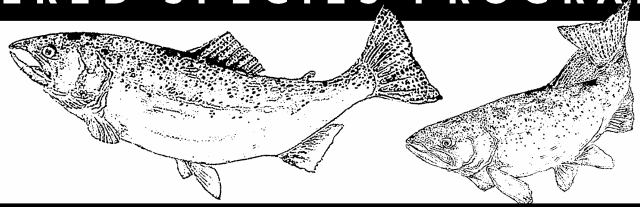
Joel Rupley, ESA Program Coordinator



FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS
 Clark County ADA Office V
 (360) 397-2322;
 TTY (360) 397-2445;
 ADA@Clark.wa.gov

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Got AG plans?

Here in Clark County, winter is typically a winding down time for agricultural producers. These cold winter months provide a perfect opportunity to write and implement Agricultural/Habitat Protection Plans under the county's Habitat Conservation Ordinance. The ordinance requires protection of existing habitat either through the development of site specific plans or through default set-backs from stream banks.



Specially trained agricultural technicians are available to assist in writing these plans. For a list of technicians or more information about putting a plan together contact Elaine Bean at (360) 397-2022. Clark Conservation District is also a great resource. Their phone number is (360) 883-1987.

Calendar Highlights

Here's what's happening in 2009:

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 425-1555 or visit www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us

Comment period for Lower East Fork Lewis River Community Board Habitat Strategy

February 15 to March 15

For more information, see the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Web site at:

www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us

Clark Conservation District Plant Sale

February —Ordering Deadline February 6

For more information go to: www.clarkcd.org

Or call 360-883-1987 ex. 5

Clark Public Utilities' Home & Garden Idea Fair

April 24, 25, and 26 at the Clark County Exhibition Hall, 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield, Contact: Clark Public Utilities 992-3000, or www.clarkpublicutilities.com

Clark County Sammy Awards

June 11, 3-5 p.m., City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center; for more information contact Elaine Bean (360) 397-2022 or elaine.bean@clark.wa.gov

Recycled Arts Festival

June 27-28, Esther Short Park, West Columbia & 8th Street, Vancouver, Contact: Sally Fisher (360) 397-6118 or sally.fisher@clark.wa.gov

Clark County Fair

August 7-16, Clark County Fairgrounds, 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield, Contact: (360) 397-6180; www.clarkcofair.com

From the Quote Box

Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known.

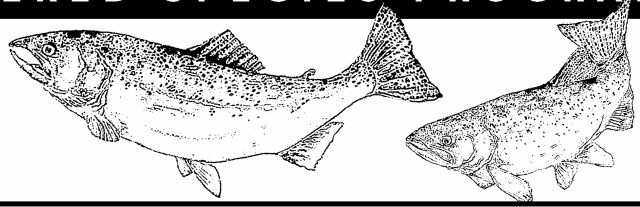
A. A. Milne, *Pooh's Little Instruction Book*



CLARK COUNTY ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

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