

Tenmile Treasures

A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK
WATERSHED



Welcome

The Tenmile Creek Restoration Project has three main goals: **1)** Inform residents of the Tenmile Creek watershed about the health issues of our surface and ground waters; **2)** Assist landowners in making changes that will improve the health of the creek and increase the value of their property. Such activities may include walking your creek to learn more, planting a native buffer between the creek and your field or yard, installing fences to keep animals out of the creek, providing alternative ways of watering your animals, creating farm plans for better management, and providing financial assistance for all the above; **3)** Help build a better community around our Tenmile Creek watershed. Hopefully we will connect to each other and to the resource we share.

In November you received the State of the Health report for the Tenmile watershed. The report summarized how our watershed is doing and how we can help to make it better. This brief quarterly newsletter will provide updates to 2500 homes. All of us make up the Tenmile Creek Watershed community. Together we can leave our grandchildren a healthier stream system and a stronger community. You can reach me anytime by calling 398-9187 or emailing doriebelisle@yahoo.com. I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Volume 4, Issue 1 Winter 2006

Tenmile Advisory Committee

- Henry Bierlink, APC
- George Boggs, WCD
- John Gillies, NRCS
- Darrell Gray, NSEA
- Craig MacConnell, WSU
- Mike Murphy, Landowner/PUD
- Susie Nelson, Volunteer
- Leroy Plagerman, Landowner
- Steve Seymour, WDFW
- Kevin Sterk, Landowner
- Eric Sundstrom, Landowner
- Dan Thompson, Landowner
- Art Zawicki, Landowner

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

Project Manager: Dorie Belisle

Need a copy of the State of the Health Report? Just ask!

THANK YOU to all the members of the Tenmile Creek Advisory Committee. We welcome the following landowners: Art Zawicki, Leroy Plagerman, Eric Sundstrom, Dan Thompson, Mike Murphy and Kevin Sterk. We gather on a quarterly basis and welcome everyone. Please contact Dorie Belisle for more information.

Did you Know... We share this watershed with 6481 cows, 370 horses, 31 sheep, 28 goats, and 62 alpacas? Of course these are just estimates - but it does tell us we have to be responsible owners. The goal set for our stream is 39 fecal colonies/100mL. If you look at the last four quarters, at each station you can see that we are "In the Red". It is important that no animals or manure runoff get into the stream. Do you need help with animal management?

Sign up to attend Whatcom Conservation District's (WCD's) FREE Small Farm Management

- Wed. April 26 - Living with Livestock near Water
- Tuesday, May 2 - Mud and Manure Management
- Tuesday, May 9 - Pasture Management
- Wednesday, May 17 - Planning for the Future

Call WCD at 354-2035 ext 3 to register for the FREE workshop series.

Quarter	Stations on the Tenmile			
	T1	T2	T3	T4
2005 1 st Qtr	56	91	177	18
2005 2 nd Qtr	63	113	130	24
2005 3 rd Qtr	65	111	135	
2005 4 th Qtr	59	88	110	25
Ultimate Target	39	39	39	39

QUESTION? Could these high numbers for our fecal coliform bacteria counts come from our SEPTIC SYSTEMS? Do you know where your septic tank is? Do you know when it was last pumped? Do you know where your septic drain field is? What other questions should we be asking ourselves? In the next issue, we will be exploring the world of septic systems.

\$\$\$ Funding is available to help you plan, plant your creek or drainage area, install livestock exclusion fencing and alternative watering solutions! 398-9187 or doriebelisle@yahoo.com

Tenmile Creek Watershed:

The Story of its people and their land

This excerpt comes from Milo Watts. Milo and his family farmed in the area of Old Guide and W. Hemmi Rd.

"Up there where Ten Mile Elementary is, there was a settlement called Yeager. In 1885 a post office was established at Yeager. E.S. Prouty was the first postmaster. Prouty and E.F. Whittier both operated small general stores...one on each side of Ten Mile Creek. There's a concrete



Milo Watts

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PLANT SALE Saturday March 18th,
8am to 3pm at Whatcom Conservation
District, call 354-2035 ext. 3

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foundation there yet. There was an army post there too. And the way I read it, it was the army guys that called it Ten Mile because it was ten miles from the Bellingham Fort [at Bellingham Bay]. There was also a hotel and a blacksmith shop. In fact, this was all on Telegraph Road where the creek went underneath the Telegraph Rd. Then in 1890 a post office was established at Laurel with Everett Adams as postmaster. He and brother L.M. Adams operated a store there and the Yeager post office was closed down".

You can read more about Yeager in the book entitled "Tales of Ten Mile - 1888 to 1940" by Louise Johnson. You can find this book at your local library, Village Books in Fairhaven, or check out the copy in the office by calling 398-9187.

Congratulations! The Fourmile Creek landowners were recognized by the Nooksack Recovery Team for the hard work and spirit of cooperation that enabled the Fourmile Project to be completed.



There's Work to be Done

Since 2002, we have given away 52,000 trees and shrubs to landowners to plant along their streams throughout Whatcom County. In the Tenmile Creek watershed alone, over three thousand (3000) trees have been planted. Fifty-five families participated!

Our inventory is depleted - we have no more trees in the ground to give away. But the PUD#1 has graciously financed our next go round. 20,000 small plugs are on order and will need to be planted in fields and garden areas.

We need GROWERS and PLANTERS. A "Grower" offers their time and a small piece of land to grow a number of seedlings until they are mature enough to withstand creek life. The trees do need irrigation and weed control for 2-3 years. "Planters" are those families willing to come out and help us plant the seedlings in the nursery areas. Our work days will be the last two Saturdays in March (March 18th and March 26th). Call 398-9187.

Telemetry in Tenmile - It's new and it's the cutting edge!

In the past, water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and relative depth were collected from our creeks one draw at a time. It took a person to go out to the creek, collect the data or water sample, walk away to return the next week, month or year. While it gave us some information, it was definitely limited. NOW for new technology! Two probes are now in place in the Tenmile and the Fourmile creeks. Data is read every hour and radioed through telemetry to the internet and a receiving station in Prosser, WA at the Center for Precision Agriculture. The data is collected and then restructured so that we can graph it and understand it. Eventually we will have a weather station in operation at the same location so we can compare the creek data with weather data.

This is a joint project between Whatcom County Stormwater Division, WSU Extension, WSU Center for Precision Agriculture and the Tenmile Project. We give a special thanks to Ken Carrasco and Craig MacConnell of WSU Extension. With their help we are collecting "real time" information in a way that is efficient and economical and it can be collected over a long time. The partners are helping develop a way to organize and communicate this information with us, the landowners in the watershed, so we can make better decisions on how we manage our land. Please check out the web page and give us your feedback:

<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/envIRON/telemetry.htm>. More to come in the next issue.

