

Tenmile Treasures

A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK
WATERSHED

Healthy Streams
Neighbor to Neighbor

Share the History of Tenmile

History can be brought to life through sharing of memories. Stories from the past help us identify with our ancestors, our community and our land. **On July 13th at 7pm, you are invited to an event featuring the stories from twelve long-time Tenmile community members:**



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Summer 2007**

Tenmile Advisory Committee

Henry Bierlink, APC
George Boggs, WCD
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

Living Near the Nooksack

Friday July 13, 2007 7:00-9:00 pm

You are invited to a free evening of stories from our past, as remembered by our elders, and told by members of the Bellingham Storytellers Guild (Rob Astyk, Brian Flowers, and Doug Banner).

Enjoy raspberries and ice cream in the nostalgic setting of the Lynden Pioneer Museum (217 Front Street).

Learn about the Tenmile Creek/Nooksack River Watershed and *Share* your memories, so through you, we can connect to this place we call home.



This event is part of the Tenmile Creek Watershed Project, made possible through support from Whatcom Conservation District and the Washington Department of Ecology.

Families are welcomed, *grandparents* are needed, and *great grandparents* will be honored.

For more information:
call Dorie Belisle 398-9187



HELP!

The Pioneer Museum has donated the use of their building for the *Living Near the Nooksack* event, however, we are responsible for setup, refreshments and clean up.

Please volunteer to help make this happen! Call Dorie at 398-9187.

Trees for Streams Program Benefits County Waterways

During three busy Saturdays in March 2007, 11,455 trees were dug from the fields of four local farmers involved in the Trees for Stream program. Two-hundred eleven (211) Whatcom County families took the trees home to replant along their streams, ponds, lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Over 25 sub-basins, including Tenmile Creek and Deer Creek, benefited from the trees!

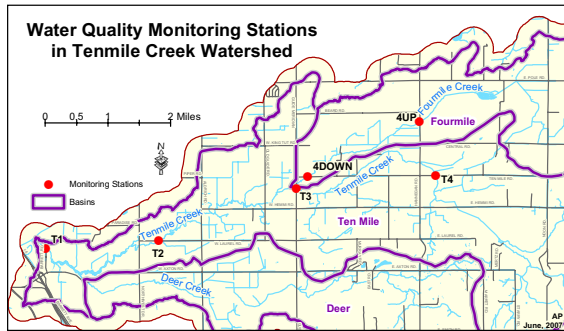


This year was the first year that all the labor for the program was provided by program participants who have taken trees in the past and wanted to make sure the program continued. Twenty-four (24) people logged 85 volunteer hours! Thanks to all who took trees home to plant and to all who gave time to make this happen. To date 66,455 trees have been planted through the Trees for Streams program and YOU!

Do you need trees for next year? We have a low inventory of 4000 trees available for next year's give away. . . AND WE NEED SOME HELP weeding one field of trees. If you can help with weeding, you will be eligible to receive the number of trees you need. Next year, our first give-away day will be for volunteers only. Please call 398-9187 to help a few hours per month in order to guarantee your trees for next year!

Tenmile Watershed Water Quality Updates - We are slowly improving....

Fall 2005 was the last time we updated you with results from ongoing water quality testing in the Tenmile watershed. Water temperatures are meeting state standards in Tenmile Creek, but there is still work to do to increase dissolved oxygen levels and to decrease bacteria levels. Assistance is available to help you create a healthier creek in your backyard, in partnership with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and Whatcom Conservation District. To explore options, call Dorie at 398-9187! Please check out the water quality results on the next page.



Tenmile Creek Water Quality Update 2007

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) -

Fact

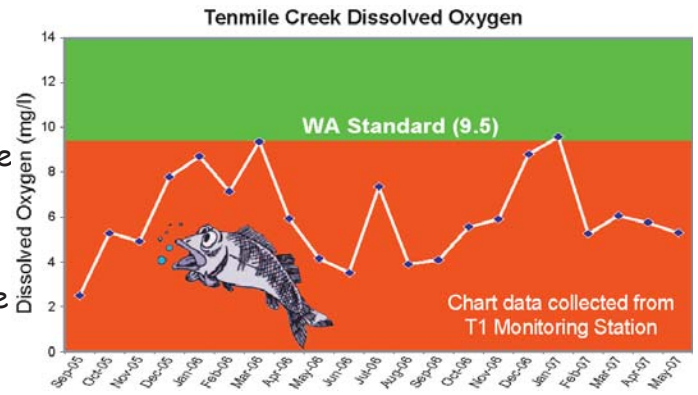
- Dissolved oxygen (DO) is the oxygen in water available to fish and aquatic life required to maintain balanced stream ecology.

Goal

- Maintain at least 9.5 milligrams of DO per liter (state standard for core summer salmonid habitat)

Causes of low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels:

- Removing vegetation (shade) increases water temperatures and reduces water's ability to hold DO
- Excess nutrients from manure, septic, fertilizer and other pollution cause blooms of aquatic vegetation that consume too much oxygen during non-daylight hours, resulting in oxygen levels too low to support spawning and rearing of threatened salmonid populations and other aquatic life.
- Allowing Reed canary grass to grow in the waterway slows water flow, resulting in higher water temperatures. As canary grass matures and dies, the decay process uses up DO needed by fish.



Water Temperature -

Facts - High water temperature:

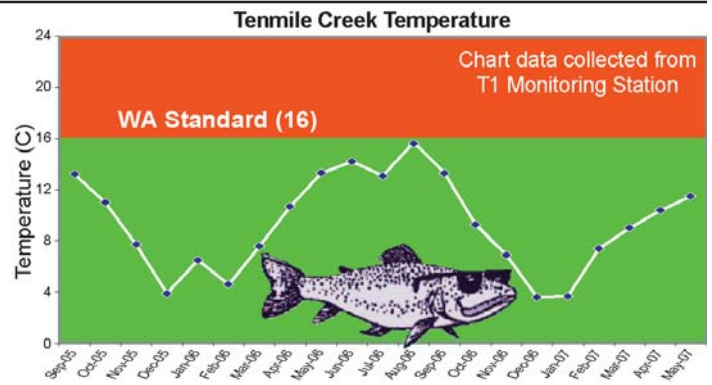
- Causes stress or death of aquatic animals
- Reduces the capacity of water to hold DO

Goal

- Maintain water temperatures below 16° C (60.8° F) to meet state water quality standards for core summer salmonid habitat

Causes of high water temperatures:

- Removal of trees and shrubs shading the stream; loss of deep pools; decreased flow
- Collapse of stream bank due to unrestricted animal access; streams become widened and shallow
- Discharge of heated water (i.e. Green Lake and ponds)



Quarterly FC monitoring data for stations T1-T4

Quarter	Goal	T1	T2	T3	T4
2005 Qtr 1	42	56	91	177	18
2005 Qtr 2	39	63	113	130	24
2005 Qtr 3	39	65	111	135	NA
2005 Qtr 4	39	59	88	110	25
2006 Qtr 1	39	NA	76	98	24
2006 Qtr 2	39	69	74	92	30
2006 Qtr 3	39	71	80	82	NA
2006 Qtr 4	39	57	68	66	28
2007 Qtr 1	39	52	52	65	28

Green = Meeting Goal Red = Not Meeting Goal NA = Data not available

Causes of high FC bacteria levels in water:

- Allowing farm animals unrestricted access to waterways (including tributaries and seasonal drainages).
- Improperly functioning septic systems and pet waste allowed in or near waterways

WHAT WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF TENMILE CREEK:

- Fence animals out of streams, tributaries, ditches, and seasonal drainages
 - Plant native trees and shrubs along waterways and ponds to create shade (reduce water temperature), create a buffer (reduce pollution), and reduce Reed canary grass (increase DO)
 - Don't remove instream wood debris that provides pools, riffles, and habitat for fish
 - Learn about your septic system and have it checked according to state law
 - Limit or omit fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicide applications near waterways
- To explore improvement options, call Dorie at 398-9187!

Fecal coliform (FC) bacteria

Facts

- FC bacteria live in the intestines of warm blooded animals. Elevated FC levels in water indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms that are a threat to human health.
- Bacteria such as FC can survive for extended periods in water, soil, and shellfish.

Goals

- Meet and maintain the FC bacteria target goal of 39 at monitoring station T1. The target goal (geometric mean) is expected to be achieved when no more than 10% of samples are above 200 CFU/100ml (coliform forming units per 100 milliliters).