



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 1, 2012

From: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed

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Event: Celebrating the removal of three large culverts that blocked salmon access on Little Bear Creek in Woodinville and the restoration of the impacted section of the stream

When: October 5, 2012, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Little Bear Creek, adjacent to Woodinville Wine Cellars, 17721 132nd Ave NE, Woodinville

Photo Opportunities: Restored stream channel and banks. Possible salmon viewing as they migrate through restored site.

Little Bear Creek salmon migration barrier removed

Salmon swimming up Little Bear Creek in Woodinville now have an easier path to spawning grounds in Snohomish County thanks to a cooperative partnership between the Adopt A Stream Foundation, City of Woodinville, and local businesses.

Until the project was completed, Little Bear Creek flowed under 132nd Avenue Northeast through three 80-foot long, 5-foot diameter concrete pipes. These pipes were steeply sloped and prevented salmon from passing through them during low flow or high flow conditions.

Through a Washington state-funded Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant made available by the Puget Sound Partnership and Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and support from the City of Woodinville Public Works Department and the Washington State Department of Transportation, the 132nd Avenue Northeast crossing of Little Bear Creek was completely removed and the underlying stream channel and banks were restored back to natural condition.

In August, the Adopt A Stream Foundation removed a major impediment to fish migration along Little Bear Creek and greatly improved access to more than 28 miles of high-quality habitat for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon. Eliminating this fish barrier near the mouth of Little Bear Creek was the highest priority for Little Bear Creek in the Salmon Recovery Plan for the Lake Washington/Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed.

The project involved removing more than 5,000 cubic yards of dirt that buried the pipes, pulling the pipes out, and adding a mix of gravel and cobble material suitable for salmon in the newly exposed stream bottom. Thirty full logs, half with root-balls intact, were anchored with boulders along both sides of the stream to create habitat, and jute netting was placed over the bare soil above to prevent erosion. At the end of August, all flow diversions were removed and the stream was allowed to flow into its newly restored channel, allowing salmon to freely pass upstream. This November, volunteers will assist Adopt A Stream Foundation to re-vegetate the stream banks with more than 1,000 native plants.

The project was designed, permitted, and managed by the Adopt A Stream Foundation. Eddie's Elite Enterprises was the contractor for major earth moving work, culvert removal, and log placement.

Photos of the project construction are available from the Adopt A Stream Foundation, 425-316-8592.

Project Quotes:

Adopt A Stream Foundation quote: "Without the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding, we wouldn't have been able to do this important salmon habitat project," said Tom Murdoch, Adopt A Stream Foundation Executive Director. "Salmon now have much better access to additional spawning habitat on Little Bear Creek."

"Now that we've successfully removed this barrier to salmon, we're excited to work with the City of Woodinville to get the next one upstream at 134th Avenue out of the way," said Murdoch.

City of Woodinville quote: City of Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas said, "This project shows Woodinville's commitment to improving habitat for salmon in our streams, and is something city residents can be proud of."

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed quote: "We've been working with Adopt A Stream Foundation and the City of Woodinville on this project for more than five years," said Dr. Don Davidson, Bellevue councilmember and Chair of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council. "It's so gratifying to see salmon traveling upstream through the newly restored stream channel."

Puget Sound Partnership quote: "This project demonstrates the value of state funding for salmon recovery in local communities and is a great example of local governments, non-profit organizations, and other groups coming together to implement salmon habitat restoration priorities, which are critical to Puget Sound recovery," said Tony Wright, Puget Sound Partnership executive director.