



Duwamish River

WRIA 9 Programmatic Actions

The Habitat Plan has policies to “support vigorous education/information efforts” and “foster stewardship” in order to expand citizen participation in salmon recovery. Plan policies also seek to protect salmon habitat in the watershed. Programmatic actions in WRIA 9 include:

- The Beach Naturalist program, which provides opportunities for people recreating on local beaches to learn about the nearshore environment;
- Environmental education for grades three to eight at the Environmental Science Center in Burien’s Seahurst Park;
- The pilot Stormwater Retrofit Program, which is developing a blueprint for how to best manage stormwater using small, dispersed, low impact development practices and facilities;
- Workshops for Puget Sound waterfront homeowners on using vegetation as a bluff stabilization technique and for improving beach conditions;
- A basin stewardship program in the Miller-Walker Creek basin under a separate set of inter-agency funding and agreements; and
- Community Salmon Investigation (CSI) – surveys in Miller and Walker Creeks to determine rates of salmon dying before they spawn using volunteers in 2010 and 2011.



Photo: David Bobanick



Photo: Elissa Ostergaard

Volunteers investigate dead coho salmon to see whether they died before spawning in Miller Creek in 2010 and 2011.



**Joan McGilton,
Management
Committee
Chair:**

“I am especially pleased that citizens are taking part in salmon recovery, such as investigating salmon pre-spawn mortality by collecting and analyzing scientific data. When residents make observations of our ecosystems and directly help with our efforts to recover salmon, we all benefit.”



Puget Sound beach



Auburn Narrows Natural Area



Lower Newaukum Creek

Monitoring

The WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee's Status and Trends Monitoring Report, 2012, findings include:

- The amount of shoreline armoring has decreased in both the freshwater and saltwater environments due to restoration actions;
- Through restoration efforts, the riparian condition in the Middle Green River has held steady. The river migrated through 30 acres of trees, which are now providing great instream habitat;
- There has been a substantial increase in large wood jam densities from 2001 to 2009
- There has been a loss in tree cover in the marine riparian areas;

- The banks of 38% of Newaukum Creek and 82% of Soos Creek have tree cover;
- Newaukum and Soos Creeks violated the state temperature standard most frequently in June, July and August. Soos Creek violated the standards more frequently than Newaukum Creek;
- 23% of Soos Creek channel is in public ownership, while only 4% of the Newaukum Creek channel is in public ownership; and
- Only 22 out of 55 drift cells (or approximately 33% of the marine shoreline) have more than 50% of their sediment sources intact.



**Marlla Mhoon,
Forum Co-chair:**

*"Since 1975,
every year,
I walk the*

river bank when the salmon return. No matter what is happening in my personal life, the return of the salmon puts life in perspective. Fall of 2010, I shared this walk with a young EarthCorps volunteer from Columbia. What a thrill for us to see a big Chinook. Returning salmon is a legacy we must protect."