



Mason Conservation District

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State Legislative District #35
 Congressional District #6

Board of Supervisor Monthly Summary of Activities

November 2017

Fall Education Adventures

We've had a lot of great outdoor education opportunities this fall at MCD! OysterFest went off without a hitch preceded by a full day of making "estuary soup" with all the 4th graders in Shelton during Kids' Day.

We then switched from estuaries to forests. The 5th grade classes invited me into their classrooms to teach about vegetation plots. In turn, they taught me about their class butterflies emerging from their cocoons and how to bathe Steve, the horned lizard.

Our students put their surveying skills to the test at Forest Benefits Day at Mason Lake. They examined what was growing in plots throughout the woods-as well as any banana slug and newt that crawled by! They learned about products they use each day that come from the forest, such as cough syrup, books, and glasses, and the importance of each forest level.



Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail

By Brianna Widner, MCD AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator

The temperature is dropping and the salmon numbers are rising! Kennedy Creek has started its open tour season to see the annual chum salmon run. Trained volunteers, like yours truly, lead tours for groups of all ages through the trail. We discuss the history of the trail, how it changes through the years, and, of course, salmon! A few fun facts include:

- Of the 3,000 eggs a female salmon can lay, only ~2 eggs survive and make it back to Kennedy Creek as spawning adults.

- Some years over 80,000 salmon return to the creek to breed.

- Both male and female salmon will breed with multiple mates.

Come out any weekend in November from 10AM-4PM for a chance to see this amazing event. The trail is FREE and depends upon visitor donations and grants.



Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail continued...



November 18, 2017 from 11:00-2:00PM is the annual Chum, Chowder, and Chocolate Kennedy Creek Fundraiser! This event is also FREE, but a \$5 donation is suggested for food including warm chili (vegetarian or meat), hearty chowder, and delicious hot chocolate and coffee to sip while you stroll. There will also be educational tables and docent led trail tours, rain or shine.

For more details please visit: <http://spsseg.org/chum-chowder-chocolate-kennedy-creek-fundraiser-november-18-2017/>

Voluntary Stewardship Program - Submitting Work Plan in Early 2018

The VSP Work Group reconvened in September and has been making recommendations on the Draft Plan. Last month's meeting was devoted entirely to public outreach and exchanging ideas on engaging the public. Staff has incorporated those ideas into the Draft and Staff is now working on a more reader friendly version of the document for distribution. The Plan is due to the Washington Conservation Commission's Technical Review Panel by May of 2018, and we are anticipating turning it in ahead of time.



Engineering Team

The engineering team has been busy surveying and preparing designs for several culvert removal projects in the Case Watershed. These culverts were identified by MCD staff as fish passage barriers on private lands. With funding provided by Mason County, MCD engineering team is developing preliminary designs. Once complete construction funds will be sought after through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Family Forest Fish Passage Program or other potential funding sources.

Rodney Tennison has begun his 150 hour Project Management Certification at South Puget Sound Community College expanding MCD's expertise in restoration projects.

