

Fish Use of Stream Drainage Basins in the City of Bellevue

April 2009

Background and Data Sources

Current knowledge of the species of fish in Bellevue's streams and their distribution is based on stream typing work conducted in the summer of 2001 (The Watershed Company 2001) that involved assessing culverts as to whether fish could pass upstream and electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted annually during the fall between 2001 and 2008 (Taylor Associates 2002; The Watershed Company 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007b, 2009); and peamouth surveys and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data). Lake Washington shore use by warm water fish was documented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June of 2005 (Personal Communication, Chad Jackson, July 18, 2007). Fish use of the lake shore along Lake Sammamish has not been documented by the City of Bellevue.

Coal Creek Basin

In spite of coal mining impacts from the mid 1860s, Coal Creek was said to have an excellent run of native kokanee (*O. nerka*) in 1946, with estimated spawning densities of up to two fish per yard of stream (Garlick 1946). However, in 1956, coal washings were blamed for the "almost total extermination of all the native fish using this stream for spawning purposes" (Ajwani 1956). Cutthroat trout (*O. clarki clarki*) are currently found throughout the basin, including upstream of natural barriers to anadromous migration. Since 1999, adult coho (*O. kisutch*), sockeye, chinook, and steelhead (*O. mykiss*) have been observed in Coal Creek below river mile 2.5. Fish moved prior to sediment removal at the sediment ponds upstream of I-405 and Coal Creek Parkway in 2007 included numerous cutthroat and coho juveniles, sculpin (*Cottus* sp.) and lamprey (*Lampetra* sp.). Largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrocheilus*) have been observed in this creek by Peamouth volunteers.

See Bellevue's Basin Fact Sheet Main web page for additional fish use information for Bellevue streams.

References Cited

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