

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electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted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and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data).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.

Newport Area

The two main stream channels in this basin flow to the north and into Coal Creek near I-405. The west stream flows seasonally, with no surface water during summer and a muddy, channel through good riparian habitat with organic (wetland) soils. On the other hand, Newport Creek (08-0269), to the east, contains significant streamflow and an abundance of cutthroat trout throughout the system. Previous surveys documented the presence of lamprey along this stretch. A 2001 survey confirmed use by trout and juvenile coho in the main headwater open channel, and electrofishing in 2007 also documented cutthroat and coho juveniles, numerous sculpin, and lamprey (The Watershed Company 2007a). A high flow bypass pipe routes storm flows away from the open channel to prevent erosion. No fish were observed in the small headwater tributary to the east that cascades down a steep slope. Along this segment, which features a 40 percent gradient, no pools deeper than two inches were found.

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

References Cited

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