

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electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted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spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data).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

Phantom Creek Basin

Historical references suggest that the downstream segment of Phantom Creek (08-0154) could have been used by coho salmon and possibly sockeye (Williams et al. 1975). Further upstream, no fish were found during surveys by The Watershed Company in 1997 and 2001 (Johnston 1997a); the upper segment had dried into isolated pools, which were inhabited by at least two bullfrogs.

Despite absence of fish during surveys, all segments of Phantom Creek upstream of the falls are considered to have some fish use due to their connectivity with Phantom Lake. Phantom Lake is known to contain warm-water fish species. The discovery of small bass in some of the pools at Weowna Park during a Watershed Company-designed restoration project confirms this classification (Way 2001). These fish had evidently washed downstream from Phantom Lake, since cascades and gradients greater than 25 percent prevent upstream migration in Phantom Creek.

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

References Cited

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