

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electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted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spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data).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

Sunset Creek Basin

Sunset Creek is identified in the State classification system as an unnamed stream (08-0262). While Sunset Creek was identified as a coho salmon stream by Williams et al. (1975), no information was provided on their historical distribution. It is likely that migratory cutthroat trout used the stream as well. Chinook salmon and steelhead have been observed in the lowest segment, and sockeye and coho salmon have been recorded as far upstream as I-90. Cutthroat trout are present as far upstream as SE 42nd Street.

Survey efforts in 2001 were confined to the headwaters, accessed from the 4400 block of 150th Avenue SE. The survey began at the City boundary and extended 150 feet upstream through a gentle, wooded ravine. This channel consists of small pools no greater than ten inches deep, connected by short riffles. Pool formation has been aided by woody debris. No fish were detected, although several crayfish (Unknown spp.) were found. Although low streamflow is a limiting factor, the absence of fish is likely due to a barrier downstream, outside of City limits.

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

References Cited

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- Williams, R. W., R. M. Laramie, and J. J. Ames. 1975. A Catalog of Washington Streams and Salmon Utilization. Washington Department of Fisheries, Olympia, Washington