

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electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted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spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data).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

West Tributary Basin

The West Tributary of Kelsey Creek (08-0264) is used by sockeye, chinook, and coho salmon, migratory and resident cutthroat trout. Peamouth have been documented as far upstream as the Kelsey Creek farm, where they spawned in 2005. Largescale suckers have also been observed in this creek by Peamouth volunteers. The upstream limit of migratory fish use appeared to be Bel-Red Road. In 2001, electrofishing on both sides of 124th Avenue NE yielded no fish, although a Pacific giant salamander was caught. Habitat characteristics along some reaches included sluggish flow through pools that were several hundred feet long, apparently created by beaver activity. Substrate consisted of a thick silt layer. Further upstream, at 120th Avenue NE, the stream consisted of isolated pools with thick silt substrate. Fish were also absent in this segment. No fish were found in the tributary at NE 8th Street in 2001. This tributary was a sequence of tiny pockets of water, each less than two inches deep.

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

References Cited

Taylor Associates. 2002. Kelsey Creek and Tributaries 2001 Spawner Survey, Bellevue, WA.

The Watershed Company. 2001. City of Bellevue Stream Typing Inventory: Final Report. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.

- The Watershed Company. 2003. Salmon Spawner Survey 2002: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.
- The Watershed Company. 2004. Salmon Spawner Survey 2003: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue.
- The Watershed Company. 2005. Salmon Spawner Survey 2004: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.
- The Watershed Company. 2006. Salmon Spawner Survey 2005: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue.
- The Watershed Company. 2007a. Fish Salvage Report: Coal Creek Sediment Basin. City of Bellevue, Utilities, Bellevue, WA.
- The Watershed Company. 2007b. Salmon Spawner Survey 2006: Kelsey Creek and Tributaries. City of Bellevue, Utilities Department, Bellevue, WA.
- The Watershed Company. 2009. 2008 Salmon Spawner Surveys: Kelsey Creek, West Tributary, Richards Creek and Coal Creek. Page 76 + appendices. City of Bellevue Utilities, Bellevue, WA.
- 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