From: Sarah Ruether
To: Jennifer Johnson
Subject: FW: March Newsletter: TEST
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 8:52:15 AM

Jenn,

I made all the edits/additions that were requested. Do you want one last look and then we can send it out today?

From: Island County, WA <IslandCounty@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Sarah Ruether <S.Ruether@islandcountywa.gov>; Sarah Ruether <S.Ruether@islandcountywa.gov>
Subject: March Newsletter: TEST

Having trouble reading this email? View it in your browser

Natural Resources Newsletter

March 2022

Announcements

Seining Program Re-Started with the Marine Resources Committee

In January 2022, the Marine Resources Committee restarted the seining program after nearly a 6-year hiatus. This is a follow-up to the study that started in 2009. Cornet Bay is a site where the Committee worked with several partners to restore almost 1,000 feet of shoreline to a more natural condition. The Marine Resources Committee seined 4 years pre -restoration and 4 years post- restoration at this location, and completed this part of the study in 2016. Currently, the committee is conducting a follow-up to continue gathering information on how the restoration affects the usage of this critical habitat for

juvenile salmon.

BeachMRC

Image Credit Clea Barenburg

Jan Holmes Coastal Volunteer of the Year

In February, the Marine Resources Committee announced the winner of Jan Holmes Coastal Volunteer of the Year. Frances Wood is the recipient of this year's award. She has dedicated a considerable amount of time, studying pigeon guillemots, an important indicator species. As a result of this work, Frances had an integral part in developing the protocol, which is now being used in all of Puget Sound by the Guillemot Research Network. This award is hosted in partnership with the Sound Water Stewards and the WSU Extension. If you know Frances, please express your congratulations and thank her for her contributions.

VolunteerAward

Image Credit Frances Wood

Deer Harbor Restoration

The Island County Natural Resources Department, in partnership with Island County Public Works and the Whidbey Audubon Society, completed removal of many invasive species and replanted 240 native plants along the Deer Lagoon dike at the end of February.

Deer Lagoon

Image Credit Clea Barenburg

Shore Friendly Program

Do you live on the shoreline? Do you have concerns about keeping your bluff stable or otherwise protecting your property? If so, the Shore Friendly program is here to help! The goal of the Island County Shore Friendly project is to promote alternative strategies for shoreline residential properties that provide both the use and enjoyment of the property while promoting and maintaining the nearshore ecosystems for the support of fish and wildlife. Sign up here to request a **free** technical site visit! You can learn more about the program by visiting here.

Programmatic Updates

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12 from 1-3pm via Zoom. Please email jennifer.johnson@islandcountywa.gov with any questions.

The ILIO has been participating in the most recent draft updates of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda (AA) can be found here. In coordination with this updated AA, the Island LIO will be updating its own Ecosystem Recovery Plan (2017). Coordination and alignment with

the AA are critical to securing potential funding and is used to incorporate and influence programs and policies.

Over the coming months, the ILIO will be working on prioritizing Vital Signs, gaps and barriers. While doing this, the ILIO will set new 5-year targets and goals that reflect this County's unique priorities. These priorities are not only for communication with funding sources and the broader community, but also for values of the community, and especially property owners, who are critical to developing the "political will" to advance the next tier of shoreline restoration and conservation projects in this county. The ILIO may use a "structured decision-making" approach, which would start with community values and work from there to vital signs.

Be sure to check ILIO's website for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The next MRC meetings will be held April 5th 3-5 and May 3rd 3-5 via Zoom. If you would like to join the meeting contact the Marine Resources Committee Coordinator Kelly Zupich K.Zupich@islandcountywa.gov

Be sure to check MRC's website for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday April 20th from 2:00-4:00 via Zoom. If you would like to join the meeting contact Alexandra Plumb AC.Plumb@islandcountywa.gov

SRTCC recently held virtual presentations for the four projects that are moving forward with the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Round ranking process. In-person site visits were held in late February with members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel to review the technical aspect of each project.

Project proposals can be reviewed at:

Scenic Heights Culvert No. 3345 - Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)

Beach Farm Acquisition - Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT)

Race Lagoon Culvert No. 1893 and 1894- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG)

Maxwelton Tide Gate - Maxwelton Creek Alliance

Preliminary scores will be discussed at the April SRTCC meeting.

Be sure to check out the Island County Salmon Recovery Website for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

race red lagoon

Image Credit Clea Barenburg

New Staff at DNR and Educational Opportunities

sage

Image Credit Clea Barenburg

New Staff in DNR

Pictured above is Sage Ince, one of three new staff members who just started in DNR this

January. Sage is the new Island County DNR Surface Water Quality Specialist. She monitors surface water associated with various watersheds in our County. Through partnering with the On Site Septic team, Watershed Planning, and the community, she is able to help solve environmental problems by using the data she collects. For example, the data she collects has led to the fixing of failing septic systems and it has led to implementing farm plans, for better water quality.

Sage's work to ensure water quality in the County, results in shellfish beds that are safe for harvest. It also provides information to know that salmon have healthy habitat, and that kids can wade in clean water. If you have any questions for Sage, please feel free to contact her at s.ince@islandcountywa.gov 360-240-5543

Sarah Ruether

Image Credit, Sarah Ruether

Pictured above is Sarah Ruether, the new Conservation Futures Fund Coordinator. She will work on the Conservation Futures Fund program, which uses a tax levy on property taxes, to purchase properties for conservation and recreation. She will work with the citizen advisory board, who makes a recommendation to the County Council, on which properties to purchase with these funds.

Her previous work history was working in land use planning with a graduate degree in urban and regional planning. Although, as graduate of the Huxley program in Environmental Science at Western, she is happy to be working for a program that conserves land. If you have any questions for Sarah please email her S.Ruether@islandcountywa.gov

Kelly

Another new DNR staff member to join the team this January was Kelly Zupich. Kelly has worked closely with various science-based volunteer groups in Island County for nearly a decade. In 2012, Kelly volunteered with the Sound Water Stewards and was hired as staff in 2016, moving up from Volunteer & Education Coordinator to Executive Director in 2020. Through her work with these groups, she found her love of the marine environment and the species that inhabit it. She is excited about her new position as the Marine Resources Coordinator and she looks forward to the work that this group will accomplish in the coming years. If you have questions for Kelly please email her at K.Zupich@islandcountywa.gov

Upcoming Education Opportunities

Alternatives to Bulkheads courses being offered through the Coastal Training Program (CTP)

If you or someone you know is a contractor, consultant, or shoreline planner who is interested in learning about alternatives to bulkheads, check out these courses offered through the Coastal Training Program!

Course 1: General concepts related to shoreline stabilization (self-paced)

Course 2: An overview of local, state and federal permit requirements (virtual)

Earth Month Events

Follow this link to Earth Month Events Calendar

April is "Whidbey Island Earth and Ocean Month"

To find out more about local events, visit Goosefoot and the Island County Natural Resource Facebook page.

Announcing the 2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

This conference will explore many sessions and events planned for April's virtual conference, including plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, networking opportunities, films, live poster sessions, and an extensive gallery of pre-recorded snapshot videos, all from leaders, researchers, and practitioners across the Salish Sea region.

As a reminder, registration will close at 5:00pm (PST) on April 20, 2022.

Learn More & Register

Green Infrastructure Summit of the Salish Sea 2022

Green Infrastructure Summit of the Salish Sea 2022 - This year's summit theme is **Turning the Tide**: Disrupting status quos in infrastructure investment, climate, and the land we occupy. A geographic spotlight will weave in unique perspectives from our neighbors in the Island, Peninsula, and shoreline-rich counties of San Juan, Island, Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam within a whole Salish Sea context. The event takes place during the mornings of March 24 and 25.

Learn More & Register

For more information, contact Sarah Ruether: s.ruether@islandcountywa.gov or 360-682-8832.

Stay connected with our Facebook page!

Stay Connected with Island County, Washington:

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
Manage Subscriptions | Unsubscribe All | Help

This email was sent to Email Address using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Island County, Washington · P.O. Box 5000 · Coupeville, WA 98239