



Floodplains by Design

• REDUCING RISK, RESTORING RIVERS •

Newsletter

April 2022



Post construction near property boundary looking downstream, January 21, 2022. Credit: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

By the Numbers: The North Touchet River Project

WALLA WALLA COUNTY

Large integrated floodplain management efforts take significant time and effort and can deliver impressive benefits, but sometimes the work can be difficult to grasp. By the Numbers illustrates projects or other actions through figures that give shape to implementation and outcomes.

“We’re working under an umbrella philosophy that the tribes call ‘the River Vision,’ which is meant to not only restore habitat, but to improve the hydrology, geomorphic, and biological function of the river. The North Touchet is a relatively small river when you look on the map, but it’s extremely important. What we’re doing here is going to directly benefit all our downstream neighbors.”

—Jerry Middel, Walla Walla Fisheries Habitat Biologist

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By the Numbers:

60,000

cubic yards of fill removed

46 acres

floodplain reconnected

1.9 miles

of levee setback

55

engineered logjams installed

32 acres

of native trees and shrubs planted
(approximately 20,000 plants)

1

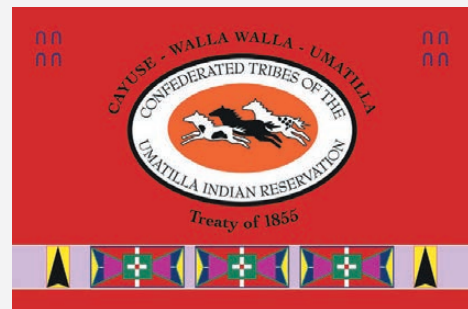
80 foot channel-constricting bridge with insufficient free board replaced with 150 foot free span bridge set at 3 feet above the 100 flood level

7 years

from idea to reality



Looking downstream, January 21, 2022.
Credit: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla



Want to see more?

Learn more about the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla's North Touchet River Project [here](#).

21

previously irrigated acres given back to river and water savings transferred instream

\$3.1 million

in contracts to local businesses

Are you interested in sharing information about your project in a future newsletter?

Contact Hannah at hbuehler@b-e-f.org

Habitat Recovery Pilot Program: New Streamlined Permitting

BY HANNAH FAULKNER, [HRPP](#) COORDINATOR,
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

In the 2021 legislative session, House Bill 1382 was passed to promote and implement habitat restoration projects that contribute to the recovery of watersheds throughout the state.

With this bill, the state and local environmental permitting process for qualifying restoration projects. Qualifying projects are not subject to environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and are not required to obtain local or state permits or approval other than the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), except permits minimally necessary as a requirement of participation in a federal program.

To qualify for review under this Pilot Program, a restoration project must include five key elements:

1. The project must first directly benefit freshwater, estuarine, or marine fish, or the habitat they rely on.
2. The project must be reviewed, approved, or funded by one of 13 established restoration programs, including Floodplains by Design.
3. The project must document consistency with local, state, and federal flood risk reduction requirements.
4. A project applicant, or *funding agency*, must review the project with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), including any required site surveys, and document consistency with applicable requirements.
5. For projects which occur on state-owned aquatic land, an applicant must obtain land use authorization from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



Wynoochee. Credit: Hannah Faulkner

The HRPP went into effect July 25, 2021, and proponents are welcome to apply now! We recommend that prospective applicants reach out to the new WDFW HRPP Coordinator, Hannah Faulkner (HPApilotprogram@dfw.wa.gov) or their area Habitat Biologist with any questions. It is also highly encouraged to initiate early conversations with the local government regarding additional permits required for participation in a federal program, such as flood risk reduction requirements. For additional details on application requirements and notification timelines, please check out WDFW's [HRPP webpage](#), including links to previous talks, key contacts, and frequently asked questions.

For more information on HRPP and other streamlined permitting pathways, check out [our interview with Josh Peters](#) on Streamlined Permitting for Ecological Restoration Projects in Washington from the October 2021 FbD Newsletter.



Waterman. Credit: Hannah Faulkner



Bowman Bay. Credit: Hannah Faulkner

**SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY
JUNE 14: 11-12:30**

**Habitat Recovery Pilot Program
and Multi Agency Review Team
update webinar with ECY, EPA,
and WDFW**

Come learn about these programs, get your questions answered and more

[Click here to register](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY
JUNE 9, 2022 11-12:00**

**State Revolving Loan Funds and
Watershed Health Initiatives, with
ECY, FbD, Quantified Ventures and
World Resources Institute**

[Click here to register](#)



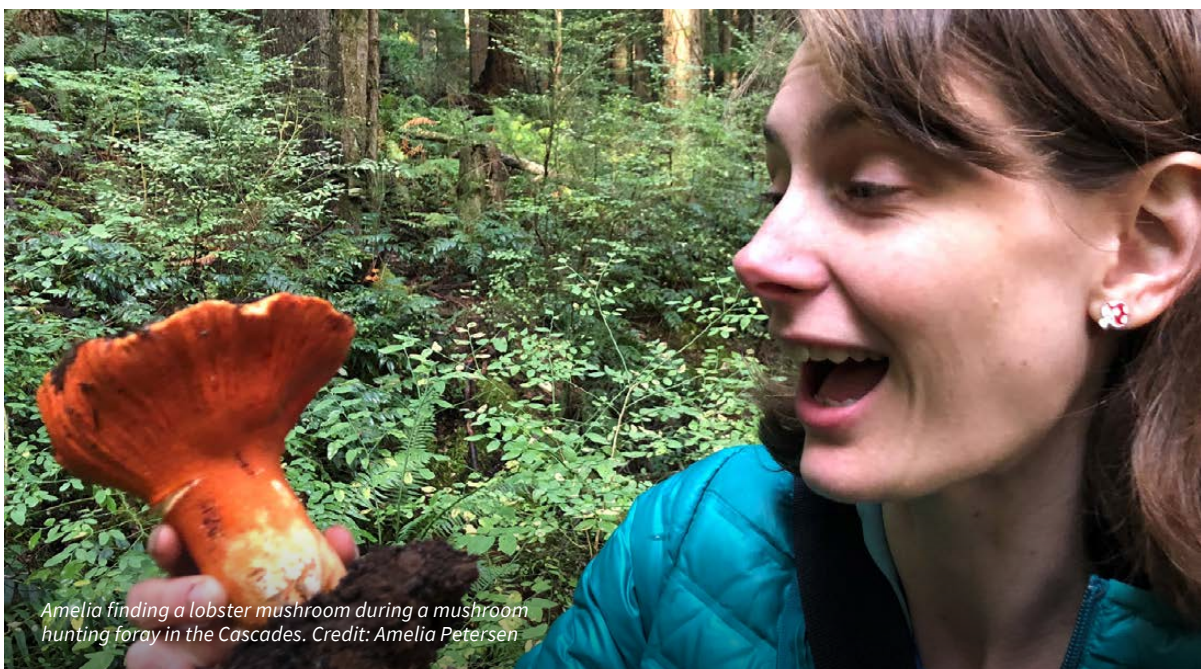
Fort Townsend. Credit: Hannah Faulkner



Introducing New FbD Member: Amelia Petersen, Floodplain Planner

My position is a brand-new one for the Shorelands & Environmental Assistance (SEA) Program! I just started in the role on January 10th of this year.

However, I previously worked in the SEA Program as an administrative assistant in the Northwest Regional Office (NWRO) for five and a half years. During that time, I completed a development assignment in floodplain management, being mentored by our state NFIP coordinator, Dave Radabaugh, and learning from others on the Flood Team. I became a Certified Floodplain Manager and completed a research project on FEMA's Community Rating System program. After much encouragement from my boss and coworkers, I applied for and was accepted to the Masters of Infrastructure Planning & Management program with the University of Washington. I took a year of educational leave from Ecology to complete the final year of the program, which included a capstone project on barriers to improving local floodplain management programs. I was fascinated by how we tend to create policy to solve environmental problems, yet we don't often provide enough follow-up or enforcement to ensure the policy actually works the way it was intended. My bachelor's degree is in advertising, so I also bring a bit of communications and design focus to my work. When I was the administrative assistant for SEA NWRO, I worked hard to ensure all our communications to the public or other agencies were very professional and easy to understand.



Amelia finding a lobster mushroom during a mushroom hunting foray in the Cascades. Credit: Amelia Petersen

Job Overview

I serve as an independent project manager responsible for guiding the development of floodplain management plans, programs, policies, and regulations that support equitable, integrated floodplain management throughout the state. (Yes, that line came straight from my position description!) This involves advancing the Floodplains by Design (FbD) initiative, supporting the ongoing development and implementation of the flood planning grants program, creating a state floodplain management training program, and working to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in state floodplain management programs.

What excites you the most about being a part of the FbD network?

I'm really excited to be part of such a unique collaborative effort, helping to solve complex floodplain problems, as well as excited to just be able to make an impact in our state's floodplains. I think the work being done by the FbD network can provide a positive example for other states and organizations, so I'm really excited to be part of providing that example for others.

Are there any past professional or life experiences that you feel are going to inform your work with the FbD network that you want to share?

I was previously an administrative assistant at the Department of Ecology, and I had the opportunity to occasionally support FbD work, including backing up our grant managers, attending some in-person FbD workshops in the past, and supporting the 2018 FbD proviso report to the legislature. My prior supervisor at Ecology also gave me the opportunity to do a development assignment in floodplain management, so I became a certified floodplain manager, learned all about the National Flood Insurance Program, and just became really involved with Ecology's statewide flood team. I really enjoyed that work, and I wanted to have more of an impact on environmental work being done in Washington. So, I ended up going back to school for a master's in infrastructure planning and management



Amelia and her husband, Isaiah, celebrating her 2021 graduation from the University of Washington. Credit: Amelia Petersen

from the University of Washington. It's really exciting to be back at Ecology in this role and to be able to have more of an impact.

Before I joined Ecology as an administrative assistant, I served in a conservation corps called EarthCorps, where I learned a lot about environmental restoration, native plants, and the importance of riparian buffers. That on-the-ground work was extremely satisfying to me. I loved seeing the changes in the project sites we worked on every day. My experience in EarthCorps really changed my outlook on life; it made me want to be involved with environmental work, and public service.

Cottonwood Regeneration

KATRINA STRATHMANN, PROJECT MANAGER & PLANT ECOLOGIST, MID-COLUMBIA FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP

Can you explain the relationship between black cottonwood regeneration, hydrological flow patterns and salmon populations?

Cottonwood stand creation — ie. cottonwood forest regeneration — is linked directly to the hydrologic flow regime of a river. Several elements of the flow regime are critical: a flood flow with adequate power to create depositional areas; a spring freshet that is on its recessional limb during the time of cottonwood seed release, of adequate volume to wet up the depositional areas (seedling recruitment sites); and a flow recession rate that does not exceed the root growth rate of the cottonwood seedlings. Of course, seedlings that establish will be the ones that are not scoured out by future flood events in the first 1-2 years of life. Researchers [Jeff Braatne](#) and [John Stella](#) have elegant ways of explaining this complex flow-recruitment relationship. Without these factors coming together — the timing and shape of flow with the timing of seed release — new forest stands are not created and our current forests will age out.

One of the fascinating things about cottonwood regeneration and flow is that mature trees play a key role in creating the depositional areas that are the very sites where new seedlings are generated.

In terms of benefits for salmon, in our lowland, arid floodplains where cottonwood are the primary source of large wood, cottonwood forests play an irreplaceable role. Large wood in the river creates scouring, creating pools and channel complexity that allows for temperature stratification — which is important because salmonids require cool water. Large trees on the floodplain provide shade that keeps water temperatures low. Large wood in the river creates hiding places from predators, and also refugia from high velocities where fish swimming upstream can rest. Salmon also require clean, clear water, and the extensive roots of cottonwood and other woody riparian shrubs and trees slow natural bank erosion, and also create roughness in flood flows, slowing water and allowing sediments to drop out of the water column. Cottonwood leaves and debris also support the aquatic food web, providing a food supply for aquatic insects, which are a primary source of food for salmon.

What are the key barriers to black cottonwood regeneration?

Cottonwood reproduces both sexually by seed and by vegetative reproduction or what I call clonal reproduction. As a sexual reproducer, the female catkins flower is fertilized, the fruit ripens, and then the fruits burst open releasing seeds that we know as cottonwood



Katrina Strathmann is a restoration ecologist with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. Her current passion is riparian forest restoration and using new techniques that improve establishment or are effective over large floodplain areas. Katrina brings to her work over 23 years of experience managing ecological restoration projects in a wide variety of habitats, as well as landscape-scale inventories, vegetation monitoring, invasive plant and rare plant management, and native plant propagation. Katrina worked previously on ecological restoration for the Yakama Nation and the National Park Service. She received her M.S. in Biology from San Francisco State University, studying local and landscape influences on butterfly assemblages in mountain meadows of the Sierra Nevada mountains.



Female black cottonwood catkins in fruit. Credit: Tom Elliot

fluff. The seed is viable for 24 to 48 hours once it gets wet, so once it hits moist soil, it needs to be in the right spot.

In terms of clonal reproduction, cottonwood can resprout from stems or roots; this is how existing stands are maintained, but clonal regeneration does not create new forest stands.

In the Kittitas reach of the Yakima River, the human-caused factors constraining cottonwood regeneration are channel confinement (from human development such as agriculture, residential use and infrastructure) and regulated flows on the river. If there is a levee preventing the river from being able to meander, there may be an opportunity if the agriculturist is not interested in farming anymore to look at opening up that floodplain and allowing the river to move and create those depositional areas.

The Yakima River is regulated, meaning that it has multiple dams and flows are released for agriculture, often at times and volumes that are quite different from an undammed flow regime. The change in flow regime also made it hard for seedlings to establish. On the Kittitas reach, many seedlings are underwater during the summer growing season, as the summer base flow increases to meet irrigation needs instead of dropping as snowmelt drops off. The Yakama Nation and Mid-Columbia Fisheries are identifying data gaps and modeling needed to be able to propose an environmental flow that could support more cottonwood regeneration, where the timing of flow releases are slightly tweaked. Because the Yakima Basin

“Because the Yakima Basin also supports a multi-billion dollar agricultural industry, any water management will need to work around the periphery of what works for agriculture — but we believe there are opportunities.”

also supports a multi-billion dollar agricultural industry, any water management will need to work around the periphery of what works for agriculture — but we believe there are opportunities.

How do cottonwood regeneration plantings look different from other riparian plantings?

Most of our forest restoration work currently focuses on creating shade, reducing erosion and creating roughness for surface flows. We have a lot of tools available to us — it is not all conventional planting with shovels. At the simplest level, if the problem with a cottonwood stand is herbivory and there’s the potential for clonal regeneration, just reducing herbivory through fencing may allow a stand to rebound. In terms of planting, Mid-Columbia Fisheries has been using what we call a “deep-planting” technique, using an augur, a hydraulic ram or trenches to plant 5 ft tall saplings so that the root masses are placed up to 4 ft deep and in moist soil — so that irrigation isn’t even necessary.

We are also starting to work on a new technique we learned about from Chris Hoag, called an “irrigated seed bed” where you use farming methods to create a recruitment site downwind of an existing stand of female cottonwoods. The seed bed needs to be within 2 m of groundwater — the maximum depth for cottonwood roots. Farming equipment is used to work up a seed bed that looks like it’s ready for a corn crop, then wetting it up at seed release using irrigation. With Kittitas County Public Works, we are developing a pilot seedbed project to see how this technique works on a 17-acre parcel. We hope this is a way of creating new cottonwood forest stands at a far lower cost than hiring crews with shovels and water trucks.

You can also do this type of assisted stand creation through recontouring when earth-moving restoration activities create an open floodplain at the right elevation relative to groundwater. Mid-Columbia Fisheries and partners accidentally created these conditions on a recontoured floodplain at a restoration site on Reecer Creek, which flooded in its very first year at the time

“You can also do this type of assisted stand creation through recontouring when earth-moving restoration activities create an open floodplain at the right elevation relative to groundwater. Mid-Columbia Fisheries and partners accidentally created these conditions on a recontoured floodplain at a restoration site on Reecer Creek, which flooded in its very first year at the time of cottonwood seed release. Now there is a 5 acre stand of Mackenzie willow and black cottonwood that was created without planting and irrigating.”

of cottonwood seed release. Now there is a 5 acre stand of Mackenzie willow and black cottonwood that was created without planting and irrigating. This type of recontouring could be done to intentionally create conditions for stand regeneration in restoration sites with the right configuration and elevations.

Much of Mid-Columbia Fisheries work on cottonwood forests has been supported by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which provided a grant that allowed us to complete an assessment of the condition and regeneration status of cottonwood forests along 30 miles of the Yakima River. The Department of Ecology’s clean water grant program also funded outreach to landowners and identification of riparian forest restoration projects stemming from the SRFB assessment. This support has been critical for understanding the scope of the problem with forests and looking for solutions.

Have you observed the timing of seed dispersal in cottonwoods changing? What impact is that having on germination and establishment?

That’s one thing we’re really interested in learning more about. Mid-Columbia Fisheries is working with the Yakama Nation to start identifying the timing of seed release as related to air temperatures and degree-days. Then this data can be used to model seed release timing under different climate change scenarios. One fear is that peak seed release and the spring freshet flows may become decoupled.

How do large-scale restoration of river and floodplain processes help with the regeneration of cottonwood?

There is an incredible opportunity there. In fact, some of the restoration areas that we’re proposing as potential opportunities for cottonwood regeneration are potential Floodplains by Design project sites. Largely, the process-based restoration projects support natural cottonwood regeneration. Levee setbacks are essentially removing or moving constraints so that the river has more room to move. So coupling that with modifying the managed flow, the regulated flow of the river, are the two things that we think could aid in the natural regeneration of cottonwood. That’s where that’s where this whole project is driving, is looking for where those opportunities exist in this 30-mile reach we’re working to regenerate. As we work here, and down in the Wapato reach, we can look at the other major floodplains on the Yakima River.



Multi-age black cottonwood along a side channel in the Yakima Basin. Credit: Katrina Strathmann.

Cottonwoods are ecologically valuable for many reasons:

- Preferred nesting tree for bald eagles
- Provide nesting for many birds, including woodpeckers, owls, herons and song birds
- Protect bees with antimicrobial resin
- Facilitate forest succession in floodplains
- Reduce sediment load and erosion in rivers
- Improve water quality
- Shade water and prevent water temperature from warming
- Enhance fish habitat
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere
- Filter pollutants out of the air

[Click here to learn more](#)

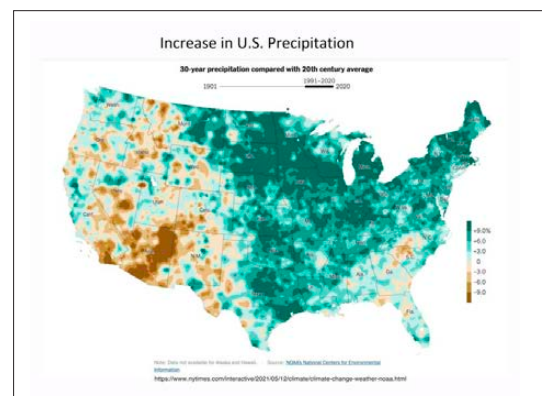
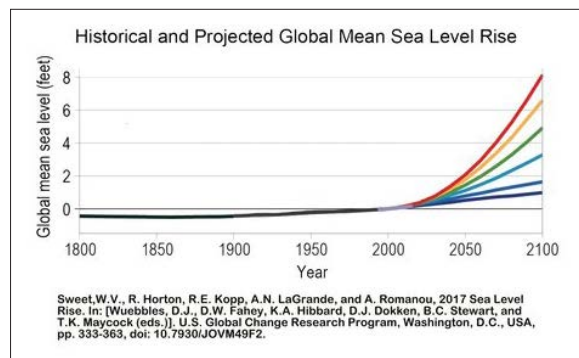
Environmental Artist Showcase: Alisa Singer

“Environmental Graphiti® is a series of digital paintings that builds a partnership between art and science. Seemingly abstract pieces are created from charts, graphs, maps, words or numbers reflecting key facts about climate change. [The art draws people in and then, when they realize the image is not abstract, they become interested in learning more about the underlying science.] The art makes the science more accessible. The science makes the art more meaningful. It’s a powerful combination.”

— Alisa Singer

“There’s a Calvin & Hobbes comic where Calvin points out that “Big Bang” is a remarkably unremarkable name for something so momentous. I see this all the time in my work on climate change, where the impacts could be dramatic and yet we struggle to understand them more viscerally. Alisa Singer’s pieces do that for me. They pull me in, remind me about a topic, and make me want to learn more about it. At a time when we all want to be thinking about how to envision our future, her work helps us do just that.”

— Guillaume Mauger, Research Scientist | Climate Impacts Group



To view the full gallery of Alisa’s work please visit www.environmentalgraphiti.org

What is Justice40 and How Does it Relate to Infrastructure Funds?

In early 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008 that, amongst other climate and environmental initiatives, created the [Justice40 Initiative](#). The initiative convenes interagency councils on climate and environmental justice, directs federal agencies to invest at least 40 percent of federal investments to disadvantaged communities, develops an [Environmental Justice Screening Tool](#), and tracks performance toward the 40% goal by developing an Environmental Justice Scorecard.

There are multiple opportunities to learn more about the initiative. EPA hosts a [series of calls](#) that focus on individual programs aligning with the initiative and the White House has published a [first year update](#).

The Justice40 initiative does not create new programs but directs agencies to utilize existing programs to align investments to support disadvantaged communities. In the first year of the program, these programs were:

-
1. Department of Homeland Security [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program](#)

 2. Department of Housing and Urban Development Lead [Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grants](#)

 3. Department of Agriculture [Rural Energy for America Program](#)

 4. Environmental Protection Agency [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)
 - State Revolving Funds are administered by States
 - » [Oregon DWSRF](#)
 - » [Washington DWSRF](#)
-

While State Revolving Loan funds have a history of being used for hard infrastructure projects such as water storage and distribution, there is increased opportunity to invest the funds into protecting and restoring ecological infrastructure such as resilient forests and floodplains that deliver clean water.

As always, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can play various roles for effective Justice40 implementation. For example, using the EJ Screening tool to align State Revolving Loan funding projects to invest in clean drinking water protection projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. A cohort of NGOs has created a [Justice40 Accelerator](#) that connects organizations with funding and learning opportunities related to relevant government investments.

Resources for Engaging with Houseless Community Members

Increasingly, floodplain managers and land stewards are encountering houseless people living in floodplains and riparian areas.

Early outreach to and relationship building with community-based organizations that serve and represent houseless people can offer critical insight, support, and access to resources and increase capacity for outreach and engagement. [Research](#) has shown that strong pathways of communication and social networks aid unhoused people in getting [access to the services](#) they need.



Credit: Daniel Rushton

We're working to compile a list for each Washington county of houseless advocacy and service organizations that can provide floodplain managers and land stewards with people to call that can assist in providing services, understanding local systems and learning key background information to inform engagement.

In this edition of the newsletter, we're highlighting community groups working in Yakima and Thurston County. Building relationships with houseless community members and community-based organizations that have strong relationships with unhoused community members takes time, intentionality and resources, but can be critical in yielding better long-term outcomes and help with more effective and humane problem solving.

Building relationships with houseless advocacy and mutual aid groups

Steps to consider:

- Ask around to find a potential group. Inquire with social service organizations, church groups, mutual aid organizations and houseless people
- Read about the organization's work
- Reach out and see if there is a field staff member you can connect with
- Ask to tag along on an outreach visit
- If you connect with an advocate, ask if they can be a future resource
- Add key telephone numbers to field staff cell phones
- Lean on them with questions about effective communication, problem solving, and de-escalation, and be open to/invite them to set boundaries with their limited time. Consider attending their meetings or asking to shadow them periodically
- Continue relationship building and note if you see any improvements in engagement with houseless community members



Our friends at the [Resting Safe](#) project have created flyers on environmental hazards ranging from fire safety to mold and mildew prevention developed by and for houseless people, which you can find [here](#).

Yakima County Resources

[Homeless Network of Yakima County](#)

[Camp Hope](#)

[Yakima Neighborhood Services](#)

[Yakama Nation Village of Hope](#)

Thurston County Resources

[Port of Support](#)

[SideWalk](#)

[Interfaith Works](#)

[Our Ark](#) (Houseless Youth Advocates)

We'd love to hear from you. Would you like to see more information on community resources in other counties? Do you have information on your local organizations that you'd be willing to share? Please contact hbuehler@b-e-f.org with comments or information.

Update on Upcoming Lunch & Learns

Adding Project Management Capacity

May 5th, 12pm - 12:55pm

Many partners across the state face constraints in hiring permanent staff with temporary funds and other challenges that people are addressing or grappling with, particularly with so much more federal infrastructure funding on the way. Join us to learn and discuss what organizations are doing to increase project management capacity.

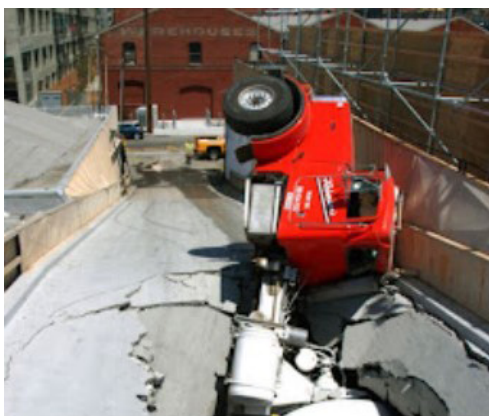
Managing Subcontracts

June 2nd, 12pm - 12:55pm

It's construction season and the short fish window many partners face for implementation is just around the corner. Come join us for a conversation with partners around the state to discuss ways to manage consultant contracts in ways that are mutually helpful and reduce work burdens. We'll cover subcontracts such as:

- Construction
- Geospatial
- Modeling
- Design
- Community Engagement

Email Allan at awarren@b-e-f.org if you would like to learn more or to be added to the Lunch & Learn email list.



Managing for Things that Happen Outside Your Project Management Expertise

Story Instigators

- Robert Knapp – Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
- Kristin Marshall, Snohomish Conservation District
- Helmut Schmidt, Pierce County Surface Water Management

FbD Tribal Panel—A Unique Conversation With Tribal Leaders Across Washington

JUNE 8TH, 10AM-12PM

The FbD Culture and Capacity Action Group is hosting an opportunity for a unique conversation with Tribal leaders from across Washington. This two hours virtual panel will provide an opportunity for floodplain professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the multi-dimensionality of tribal governments, tribal people and communities across Washington to promote cross-cultural learning and sharing. We are incredibly honored to welcome our guest panelists:

Chairman W. Ron Allen- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Chairwoman Kat Brigham- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Paul Ward- Director Of Intergovernmental Affairs at Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission

Dave Herrera- Skokomish Tribe Fisheries Policy Advisor

Shawn Yanity- Former Stillaguamish Chairman and Tribal Fisheries Manager

Representative from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (TBD)

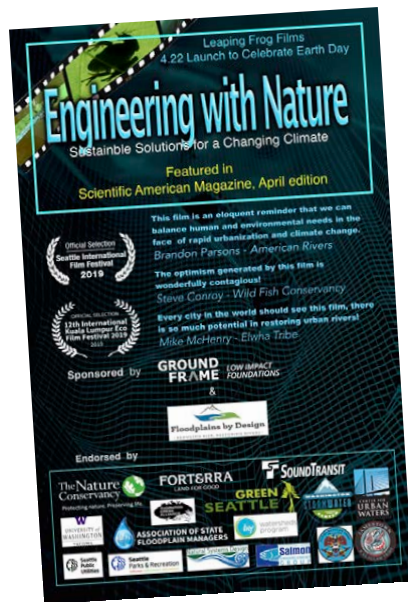
The Whitener Group, a tribally owned consultant team, will be facilitating the panel and discussion.

[Click here to register in advance for this meeting.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the zoom meeting.



Fish and surf. Credit: NWIFC



Engineering with Nature Film Screening

The Thornton Creek project, an early recipient of FbD funding, is being showcased as an outstanding example of sustainable, natural infrastructure solutions for a changing climate! The project was featured in the April edition of [Scientific American Magazine](#) for its “first of its kind,” eco-friendly, multi-benefit flood control facility. The project was followed by Leaping Frog Films for 5 years and their documentary *Engineering with Nature - sustainable solutions for a changing climate* showcasing the Thornton Creek project was picked out of 5,200 entries to premiere at the 2019 Seattle International Film Festival. You can watch the film [here](#) using the passcode GroundFrame for a free viewing.



Creating an FbD Photo Library

We are seeking photos from the FbD Network!

We are revamping the FbD website and are seeking great photos of projects and network members to showcase on the new website. We will also be creating [a photo library](#) where FbD network members can share and use photos for presentations or other needs. We have heard that accessing photos can be a challenge at times and want to see if this could be of use to you all.

If you have photos illustrating key project types or partners that you’re willing to share for these purposes, please upload them to [the photo library folder](#). You can find guidance [here](#) on how to label your photos so that they can be properly credited. Please ensure photos added to this folder are permissible to be used on the FbD website and to be shared with all members of the FbD network.

America the Beautiful Challenge

Earlier this month, [the White House announced a new \\$1 billion funding program](#) that is being billed as a “one-stop-shop solicitation that will streamline the grant application process and facilitate the coordination of funding for projects across landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes to achieve larger and more durable benefits on the ground.”

While it is still early, this appears to be an encouraging integrated funding approach that is in line with many of the goals of FbD and the desires for more easily accessible funding for multibenefit efforts expressed by the network.

The [America the Beautiful Challenge](#) is a new public private grant program administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that will support locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the [America the Beautiful Initiative](#) which aimed to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 and the [Justice40 Initiative](#) which seeks to invest at least 40%

of federal investments in disadvantaged communities. It consolidates funding from Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Defense, as well as private philanthropy with a focus on the following activities:

- Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds
- Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes
- Improving ecosystem and community resilience to coastal flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats
- Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

Tribes, States, territories, local groups, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and others are eligible to apply. **The application is expected to open the first week of May**, with proposals submitted by the end of July and funding awarded in November of 2022. Awards will be issued biannually, and consistent metrics for conservation and restoration deliverables will be reported across projects and funds to improve outcomes. **Please check the [program website](#) during the first week of May to learn more about funding opportunities through the America the Beautiful Challenge.**

Events & Opportunities

Managing Director Landscape Ecology Job Posting

The Managing Director Landscape Ecology oversees the current and future direction of Forterra's Green Cities, Riparian Restoration, and Lands Stewardship departments. Traditionally, these departments support Forterra's mission through management of conserved properties and easements, and inclusive programs that engage and build community to enhance and care for critical salmon habitat, parks, green spaces, and urban tree canopy. They provide equitable access to nature essential to a healthy quality of life.

[Learn More](#)

Seeking stakeholders to help update the State's Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Washington Emergency Management Division is currently updating the 2018 State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan (SEHMP) and is seeking volunteer stakeholders across the state to participate in regional hazard vulnerability assessments based on the regions in the figure shown below. These vulnerability assessments will help the State determine how natural hazards impact our populations, communities, and critical infrastructure, as well as the reasons why we may be susceptible to natural hazards. These regional assessments will form a foundational part of the updated SEHMP, to include helping the State develop overarching hazard mitigation goals and strategies.

If you or a member of your staff are interested in becoming a stakeholder, please take a couple minutes to [fill out this simple interest form](#) by April 30, 2022.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Implementation Manager Position

Our Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Implementation Manager will lead restoration project planning, development, and implementation for the Chehalis Basin by coordinating multi-partner teams in development and execution of projects, engaging with important stakeholders to ensure consistency in the processes for design and construction of restoration projects, develop restoration initiatives and strategies, and more!

[Learn More](#)

\$12 million in grant funding available from the King County Flood Control District for projects that reduce the impact of flooding

May 26th, 2022

The King County Flood Control District this week announced the availability of at least \$12 million in grant funding for projects that reduce the impact of flooding. The program targets flood reduction projects throughout King County and the deadline to apply for a 2022 grant is May 26. Online informational meetings will be offered on April 27 and 28, please visit the Flood Reduction Grants site for more information.

[Learn More](#)

Lunchtime Conversation: Improving Infrastructure for Salmon + People

Wed, May 4th | noon to 1:30pm

This webinar will celebrate past successes in improving infrastructure for fish and people, share new scientific tools that can inform future efforts, and convene a panel of experts to discuss upcoming funding opportunities. We hope to increase awareness about barriers facing migratory fish in the Western Washington region and beyond and level the playing field for more equitable infrastructure investments that result in healthier habitat for humans and fish alike.

[Learn More](#)

RESOURCES AND RELEVANT LINKS

- [Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Report 2021](#)
- [Floodplain project taps Indigenous knowledge, drawing international eyes](#)
- [Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife MART Report for the Habitat Strategic Initiative](#)
- [Resilience Action Demonstration Project](#)
- [How rising sea levels are causing a US migration crisis](#)
- [Emerald Alliance Update: April 2022](#)