

NORTH SOUND RIPARIAN CONFERENCE

Planning, Monitoring and Long-Term Maintenance

Bringing together riparian restoration practitioners to build networks, share practical information and improve outcomes.



Peter Guillozet



Katrina Strathmann



Jake Sullivan



Brenda Clifton



Jason Anderson



B'Elanna Rhodehamel



Jodi Prout

JANUARY 29TH, 2025 9:00AM-3:00PM, ONLINE

9:00am	Introduction	Emily Derenne
9:15am	Stillaguamish Tribe Riparian Planting Monitoring Program	Jason Anderson Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
10:00am	Variable Density Thinning	Jake Sullivan Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection
10:45am	Break	
11:00am	What It Takes: Planning for Successful Riparian Restoration at Harsh Sites	Katrina Strathmann Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
11:45am	Assisted Migration Best Management Practices for Pacific Northwest Habitat Restoration Projects	Brenda Clifton Skagit River System Cooperative
12:30pm	Lunch Break 45 minutes	
1:15pm	The Rapid Riparian Revegetation Approach, Revisited	Peter Guillozet San Juan County Conservation Land Bank
2:00pm	Riparian Plant Propagation Program	B'Elanna Rhodehamel Washington State Conservation Commission
2:15pm	The Ripple Effect: Engaging Communities in Riparian Stewardship	Jodi Prout Washington State Conservation Commission
2:45pm	Closure	Brenda Clifton



SPEAKERS

Stillaguamish Tribe Riparian Planting Monitoring Program

Jason Anderson

Riparian Ecologist

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Department of Natural Resources

Bio

Jason is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing riparian restoration projects. He works on invasive plant surveys and control, stewardship of Stillaguamish Tribe-owned conservation lands, and, until recently, at a native plant nursery. Prior to working for the Tribe, his position at the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, now called Sound Salmon Solutions, centered around project management for instream, fish passage, and riparian restoration projects.

Abstract

One challenge facing riparian planting project managers is measuring how the outcomes of restoration activities change over time. Worksite metrics such as “Acres Treated” or “River Miles Treated” quantify riparian gains. However, these metrics fail to adequately assess quality metrics such as canopy cover or number of conifers per acre. During this talk, Jason will describe the monitoring program that his team has developed to assess riparian restoration projects including field data collection, data management, analysis, dissemination, and lessons learned.

Variable Density Thinning

Jake Sullivan

Forester

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Bio

Jake is a forester for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. In his work, he created a Forest Management Plan using variable density thinning as the main type of commercial harvest on Tribal Trust lands. His prior work as a Silviculture Forester in the private industry exposed him to a variety of forest management techniques to meet certification standards and Habitat Conservation Plans for timber lands in Washington and Oregon.

Abstract

Many vegetation restoration projects are reaching an age where they could benefit from selective thinning. Variable density thinning is a forest management technique used when the goal is to increase structural complexity, create early successional patches and/or decrease the intensity of harvest within the stand. Jake will discuss some of the ecological benefits including adding complexity and increased edge effect. Other considerations include the cost of the treatment vs. industry standard regeneration harvest.

What It Takes: Planning for Successful Riparian Restoration at Harsh Sites

Katrina Strathmann

Restoration Ecologist and Riparian Program Director

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Bio

Katrina has 27 years of experience, having previously worked for the Yakama Nation and the National Park Service. Ms. Strathmann's belief is that we can increase project success by applying science to our designs and conscientiously evaluating our implementation outcomes. Her current focus includes using knowledge of intertwined fluvial and biological processes that create and sustain riparian forests to implement novel riparian restoration methods. Katrina has an MS in Ecology and Systematic Biology from San Francisco State University.

Abstract

Ecohydrology of black cottonwood and riparian willows provides essential information for riparian restoration, specifically requirements for natural stand regeneration, long-term stand persistence, and the establishment and expansion of potential restoration plantings. Site conditions and characteristics—such as groundwater depth, proximity to rewetted floodplain or channels, soil texture and density, proximity to mature cottonwood or willow stands and project scale—are fundamental to the initial stages of construction design planning and drive the selection of riparian restoration approach. Planting options include emerging techniques such as assisted seedbeds, deep-planting, "two-phase" planting, and conventional planting. Maintenance after plant installation can be critical, particularly at harsh sites. Project maintenance that addresses site conditions includes targeted weed management, drip irrigation, and herbivory-deterrent fencing. Ms. Strathmann will share approaches and techniques from her riparian work in eastern Washington.

Assisted Migration Best Management Practices for Pacific Northwest Habitat Restoration Projects

Brenda Clifton

Senior Restoration Botanist

Skagit River System Cooperative

Bio

Brenda is a plant ecologist with over 20 years of experience in plant biology and propagation. Ms. Clifton has a bachelor's degree in Botany and her master's thesis is in plant physiology. She is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist with the Society of Wetland Scientists and was awarded Restorationist of the Year by the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter in 2022. At the Skagit River System Cooperative, she manages the vegetation aspects of salmon habitat restoration projects, including designing projects, conducting vegetation surveys, and overseeing a native nursery with over 15,000 plants.

Abstract

This presentation will provide guidance on the use of assisted migration in habitat restoration projects with trees and shrub species. In the last century, average temperatures have risen in the Pacific Northwest and models predict additional increases over the coming decades. Plants can migrate in response to changing climate, but models suggest that many species will be unable to migrate fast enough to keep up with future climate change. Assisted migration is the human-assisted movement of species in response to climate change. Local practitioners have expressed interest in incorporating assisted migration into restoration projects and there are a few local projects that have already used translocated plants. During the presentation Ms. Clifton will share a decision framework to help project managers determine if assisted migration is a good fit for their projects and relate some best management practices to reduce the risks associated with these projects.

The Rapid Riparian Revegetation Approach, Revisited

Peter Guillozet

Orcas Preserve Steward

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank

Bio

After earning a B.S. in biology and botany at Humboldt State University and a M.S. in population ecology in North Carolina, Peter joined the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Program at the Council of Governments in Washington DC. Upon returning to the Pacific Northwest in 2001, he helped build a successful watershed restoration program at Clean Water Services in Oregon's Tualatin basin and then served as Senior Natural Resource Scientist at Oregon Metro.

Abstract

Ten years on, we review highlights from a 2014 paper published in *Ecological Restoration*. The paper described the Rapid Riparian Revegetation (R3) Approach, which summarized practices developed and refined between 2003 and 2013, a time of unprecedented growth in riparian restoration in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Intended as an opportunity to reflect on the state of revegetation practices, the paper described aspects of site preparation, stock-type selection, planting density and herbivory prevention as well as challenges such as crew and plant availability, grant timelines and other funding constraints, and characterization of project outcomes. Having continued this work at various scales in the decade since, Peter revisits early projects in Oregon, shares observations from peers, reflects on recent work in Western Washington, and considers the roles practitioners, regulators, and funders play in advancing replicable approaches to riparian restoration.

Riparian Plant Propagation Program

B'Elanna Rhodehamel

Riparian Plant Propagation Program Manager

Washington State Conservation Commission

Bio

B'Elanna manages the RPPP to improve the availability of native riparian trees and shrubs for restoration projects supporting statewide salmon recovery. Their responsibilities include assessing statewide demand for plants, coordinating contract grows with nurseries, managing grant opportunities for district holding sites, and matching plants with restoration initiatives.

Abstract

The Riparian Plant Propagation Program (RPPP) supports riparian restoration efforts across Washington State by increasing access to locally adapted native trees and shrubs. By collaborating with nurseries, conservation districts, and restoration groups, the RPPP plays a key role in propagating, cultivating, and restoring riparian ecosystems. This introduction explores the opportunities the program offers to enhance the availability of native riparian plants for restoration projects.

The Ripple Effect: Engaging Communities in Riparian Stewardship

Jodi Prout

Education and Outreach Manager

Washington State Conservation Commission

Bio

Jodi has over fifteen years of experience in community engagement and environmental education. She has worked for conservation districts, nonprofits, and public agencies. With a Masters of Science in Natural Resources, Science Communication and Environmental Education, she specializes in connecting communities with the natural world, effectively bridging gaps to address resource challenges and promote voluntary conservation efforts. In her current role, she leads riparian communication initiatives, focusing on raising awareness about the importance of riparian buffers. Additionally, she supports conservation districts statewide by developing regional education and outreach strategies tailored to local needs.

Abstract

The SCC initiated The Ripple Effect Campaign following a \$2 million legislative allocation in 2023, aimed at raising awareness of riparian buffers. This educational initiative seeks to engage urban, suburban, rural, and agricultural communities in protective and enhancement measures for these ecosystems by enhancing public understanding and providing conservation districts with tailored outreach toolkits. Leveraging community relationships and demographic research, the campaign will implement a multi-channel outreach strategy, including videos, infographics, and promotional materials in both English and Spanish, informed by focus group findings to ensure resonance with target audiences. The Ripple Effect Campaign represents a significant step toward cultivating a culture of conservation in Washington State, equipping communities with knowledge and tools to advocate for sustainable land use practices and the preservation of riparian ecosystems.

Thank you
for attending!

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