KENNEDY CREEK
PROPOSED NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AREA

Mason & Thurston Counties, Washington

The proposed Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) will protect nearly all of the Kennedy Creek stream corridor, from its headwaters in the Capitol State Forest and Summit Lake, to the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve (NAP) in Totten Inlet. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, along with our partners the Squaxin Island Tribe, Green Diamond Resources Company, Western Rivers Conservancy, Taylor Shellfish, Capitol Land Trust and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, is proposing the 1,007 acre NRCA to ensure that the Kennedy Creek habitat remains healthy for future generations of people, fish and wildlife.

Only ten miles northwest of Olympia, Kennedy Creek is one of the most productive chum salmon spawning streams in Washington, with average fall runs of 30,000 fish. Kennedy Creek also supports runs of Coho salmon, coastal and resident cutthroat trout and winter steelhead. After spawning, the salmon carcasses provide important marine-derived nutrients to the surrounding riparian and estuarine ecosystems. These nutrients supplement the diets of 120 different wildlife species, including northern river otter, bobcat and red-tailed hawk.

The Kennedy Creek estuary at Totten Inlet is a rich, intertidal salt marsh ecosystem that is protected within the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve (NAP). Created in 1999, the preserve is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and provides a critical feeding area for more than 140 bird species, including large concentrations of shorebirds, migratory waterfowl and predatory raptors. Bald eagle, marbled murrelet, peregrine falcon, purple martin and black-bellied plover all depend upon the mudflats at Kennedy Creek.

Each November, more than 5,000 people, including 2,500 students, visit the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. The Trail is an interpretive site located along the creek that is jointly managed by Taylor Shellfish and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. By including the Trail and the stream corridor in the proposed conservation area, people will continue to learn about the importance of salmon to the Puget Sound region for generations to come.

CONTACT: Michele Zukerberg | Natural Areas Manager | 360-902-1417 | michele.zukerberg@dnr.wa.gov

Kennedy Creek pNRCA Fact Sheet

Dated May 17, 2016