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CONFLUENCE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPANY

CHRIS SONCARTY

Senior Biologist/Regulatory Specialist

Chris Soncarty is a fisheries biologist and regulatory specialist with 24 years of experience working on federally funded projects for local, state and federal agencies, preparing technical environmental documents, such as environmental impact statement (EIS) discipline reports and biological assessments (BAs). Chris has managed a variety of infrastructure and restoration projects in freshwater, marine, and estuarine environments. He has extensive knowledge of the National/State Environmental Policy acts (NEPA/SEPA) and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Chris has worked closely with civil and hydraulic engineers during the design phase of restoration projects to develop specific types of habitats and habitat forming processes that provide significant biological benefit to target aquatic species and life-history stages. He coordinates extensively with permitting agencies during the design phase to ensure agency input is carefully considered and incorporated into the project as appropriate.

EDUCATION

B.S., Environmental Science/Ecology/ Fish Biology, The Evergreen State College, 1994

EXPERTISE

ESA Section 7 and Section 10
NEPA/SEPA
Fish Biology and Habitat
Environmental Documentation
Environmental Planning and Permitting
Ecological Assessment
Habitat Restoration
Culvert Analysis

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Advanced BA Training: Senior BA Author, WSDOT, March 2013
Electrofishing Survey Protocol, DNR
Electrofishing Protocol, Smith-Root
Barrier Culvert and Habitat Assessment, WDFW

Representative Projects

Upper Quinault River Sustainable Floodplain Management Planning Project, Quinault Indian Nation, Quinault, WA. *Project Manager.* Project purpose is to improve fish habitat in the developed portions of the Upper Quinault River, upstream of Lake Quinault. Leading development of a Roads Management Plan as part of project to identify and prioritize actions that will improve channel migration and other geomorphic and habitat-forming processes. The range of activities will include relocation/abandonment of existing roadways, relocation of facilities, streambank and roadway protection to establish floodplain forests, reconnection of oxbow and other off-channel habitats, and protection of functioning floodplain forests and habitat. These actions are intended to restore habitat conditions for salmonids, particularly the blueback, or sockeye salmon, which is a fish of cultural significance to the Quinault Indian Nation.

SEPA Compliance for Proposed Commercial Air Service Terminal, Snohomish County Paine Field Airport. *Deputy Project Manager.* Coordinated closely with and directing the technical staff reviewing the NEPA environmental assessment and supporting documents in support of the Confluence Team's recommendation to the county on technical analysis that should be updated in the NEPA document for adoption for SEPA compliance. Provided QA/QC of all technical documents providing recommendations to the county.

James Street Bridge Replacement and Road Improvements Environmental Classification Summary (ECS) and Environmental Permitting, City of Bellingham, WA. *Project Manager.* The project entails the replacement of two deficient bridges and roadway widening to meet current city arterial standards. James Street intersects three fish-bearing streams and 80 percent of the project corridor is within the floodplain of Squalicum Creek, bisecting the floodplain. Managed a team of biologists and planners to prepare the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) ECS Form and supporting documentation (discipline reports and technical memoranda) for NEPA compliance per WSDOT and Federal Highway Administration requirements. Served as lead biologist responsible for permitting the project, preparing the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and BA.

Programmatic Land Management Plan (LMP), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, WA. *Senior Biologist/Co-Author.* Participated in extensive coordination with the Tribes to define the management goals and objectives for various activities (e.g., agriculture, forest management, water rights, public access) and resources that may occur on properties that

could be acquired by the Tribes within the Okanogan sub-basin to contribute toward salmon recovery. Assisted with the development of a specific property information form (SPIF) and a baseline assessment form that allow the Tribes to document existing conditions on properties they acquired and track trends over time as habitat restoration efforts and resource and activity management goals and objectives are implemented. Assisted with development of adaptive management objectives, to ensure responsive action toward achieving desired outcomes.

Culvert Replacement Corps Permitting and Engineering Review, Snohomish County Department of Public Works – Surface Water Management (SWM), Snohomish County, WA. *Senior Biologist.* Providing technical support on project to determine applicable U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory requirements for 17 proposed culvert replacements. Supported the evaluation of culvert designs to determine the jurisdictional status of each culvert replacement project and permitting requirements; and helped coordinate with Snohomish County SWM, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Corps, and the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Indian tribes to review and evaluate jurisdictional determinations and permit acquisition needs.

Irvine Slough Maintenance Dredge Project, City of Stanwood Community Development Department, Stanwood, WA. *Senior Biologist.* Assisting city with obtaining federal, state, and local permits to authorize maintenance dredging to increase the capacity of Irvine Slough, which conveys water during flood events. Permits included a WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA), a Corps Nationwide Permit 3 or Standard Individual Permit, and a Washington Department of Ecology Section 401 Letter of Verification. Prepared a SEPA checklist for the city to issue a Threshold Determination of Non-Significance, required for the HPA. Currently obtaining programmatic (5- to 10-year) permits from all agencies to authorize ongoing maintenance dredging in Irvine Slough. Developed and implemented a fish exclusion plan to be implemented during dredging activities.

North Mercer Island Interceptor and Enatai Interceptor Upgrade Project – Angle Structure Inspection, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, Lake Washington. *Environmental/Permitting Lead.* Lead for the environmental compliance and permitting of the Angle Structure Inspection component of this project. The inspection requires the access of four angle structures and three manhole structures, all located in Lake Washington, to determine the condition of the seal on the lids of each and the condition of the sewer pipeline to which they are connected. Prepared the JARPA package for the project, including preparation of a BA, as well as the SEPA checklist for Shorelines compliance. Coordinated extensively with the Corps, WDFW, and the project engineer. Supported the county through the SEPA process by providing critical review and input on documents and correspondence.

Index-Galena Road Flood Damage Repair Project – Fish Exclusion and Water Quality Monitoring, Snohomish County Public Works, Index, WA. *Project Manager/Lead Fish Biologist.* Managed environmental construction compliance project to provide fish removal and exclusion along a 300-foot section of the Index-Galena Road that the County had obtained funding and permits to repair road washout damage that occurred during flooding in 2006. The project also entailed water quality monitoring to ensure construction activities did not result in an increase in turbidity downstream of the construction activities.

Dogfish Creek Restoration Master Plan Phase II, City of Poulsbo, Poulsbo, WA. *Lead Fish Biologist.* Conducted survey of the South Fork Dogfish Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the North Fork Dogfish Creek as part of a multidisciplinary team including hydraulic engineer, geomorphologist, wetland biologist, and fish biologist. The two primary goals of the project were to identify opportunities to restore stream ecology and reduce flooding that occurs within developed portions of the floodplain. The effort resulted in identification and prioritization of over 25 projects that could be completed within the city limits.

SR 167 8th Street East Vicinity to South 277th Street Vicinity Project, WSDOT Urban Corridors Office, Washington. *Project Manager/Primary Author.* Managed project to survey streams, delineate wetlands, and document existing conditions associated with the widening of a stretch of southbound SR 167 to provide a high-occupancy toll lane. Served as the primary author of the BA for the project. Provided key information that allowed NMFS to prepare its letter of concurrence before it received the BA. NMFS completed consultation in 8 days, and USFWS completed consultation in 3 weeks—record time for an Urban Corridors Office project.