EDUCATION

M.S., Fisheries, University of Washington

B.A., Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia

24 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Fisheries Professional, American Fisheries Society, No 3470, 2003-present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Fisheries Society, 1999-present

EXPERTISE

Fish Ecology
Marine Biology
Habitat Restoration

Paul Schlenger

Principal Fisheries Biologist

Paul is a principal fisheries biologist with 24 years of experience who specializes in salmon biology, aquatic ecology, habitat assessment, and habitat restoration planning and design. He has extensive experience working in marine nearshore and estuarine environments, as well as in large and small rivers and lakes. Paul has a strong background in ecological assessment, and much of his work has focused on characterizing the ecological benefits of proposed restoration projects. This work has been conducted at the site scale to inform the development and evaluation of restoration alternatives, as well as at broader spatial scales to prioritize potential restoration and protection projects based on their ecological benefits. Paul has served as lead ecologist for numerous projects in river, floodplain, and coastal shoreline settings.

Relevant Experience

Meadowdale Park Estuary Restoration, Snohomish County Parks, Snohomish County, WA. *Lead Ecologist.* As part of a multidisciplinary team, Paul provided ecological input to the development and evaluation of restoration alternatives, as well as the design of the selected alternative. The selected alternative was the maximum restoration alternative. The design entails replacing an undersized culvert with a 120-foot wide bridge through the BNSF railroad embankment to restore the estuary of Lunds Gulch Creek. Paul also led the ecological assessment of existing conditions of Lunds Gulch Creek in Meadowdale Beach County Park. He participated in stakeholder and public meetings to garner input and support for the project. Paul supported the County's efforts to secure grant funding by preparing text for the applications and participating in the site visits. Paul is currently leading the development of a comprehensive monitoring plan for the restoration.

Restoration Planning for Coastal Streams and Embayments Impacted by Railroad, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Various Counties, WA. *Project Manager and Lead Ecologist.* In a first phase of work, Paul led the prioritization of more than 200 coastal streams and embayments along the eastern shore of Puget Sound which are impacted by the BNSF railroad. Paul developed an analysis framework to characterize the potential benefits of replacing the culverts with structures properly sized for fish passage, as well as transport of water, sediment, and large wood. To help guide the analysis, Paul convened an advisory group that included representatives from BNSF, WDFW, Washington Department of Ecology, Tulalip Tribes, as well as local and salmon enhancement group representatives. In a second phase of work, Paul is leading a dialogue with BNSF and restoration partners on implementation of stream mouth restoration at priority sites throughout the project area. Conceptual designs are being prepared for three of the highest priority sites.

Fish Passage and Stream Restoration at Perrinville Creek, City of Edmonds, Edmonds, WA. *Lead Ecologist.* Paul is providing ecological restoration input to the development of an interim action and long-term solution to address flooding near the mouth of Perrinville Creek. Excessive flows and sediment loads have overwhelmed the undersized road and railroad crossings near the mouth of the creek. The interim action entails re-establishing a creek channel to address the loss of a channel through a residential property. The long-term solution will route the creek through a new crossing through the stream mouth railroad embankment. In addition, a fish passage barrier at a road crossing just upstream will also be restored.

McSorley Creek Pocket Estuary Restoration Project at Saltwater State Park, King County, Des Moines, WA. *Lead Ecologist*. Paul is leading the nearshore and stream assessment for this multidisciplinary project that will reconstruct the lower reach of McSorley Creek, restore a pocket estuary, and reconnect sediment sources along approximately 1,000 feet of the Puget Sound shoreline. The project is located in Saltwater State Park and an overarching goal is to restore ecological processes and habitats in a sustainable manner that also continues to meet the landowner requirements for the area.

Edmonds Marsh Restoration and Willow Creek Daylighting, City of Edmonds, Edmonds, WA. *Lead Ecologist*. Paul led the ecological analysis of a feasibility study to restore the 28-acre saltmarsh complex. The restoration project would entail daylighting and expanding the connection of a saltmarsh and freshwater wetland to the Puget Sound shoreline in order to restore the marsh's historic functions. The early feasibility study included identifying the best route of reconnection through the BNSF railroad right-of-way and assessing the projected fish passage benefits.

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Puget Sound, WA. *Assistant Project Manager and Estuarine Ecologist*. Paul managed a diverse range of on-call technical services to the Corps while serving as the primary point of contact and technical lead on a series of task orders. He led the consultant team's effort to implement a Soundwide analysis of changes in shoreline and watershed conditions between current and historic (late 1800s) habitat conditions. Paul was also the lead author of the Strategic Needs Assessment Report, which analyzed ecological process degradation along the shorelines and deltas of the Puget Sound planning area.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Review Panel, Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, WA. *Technical Review Panel Member*. Paul serves as a Review Panel member on the Washington State SRFB, which has an annual grant program for salmon-focused projects addressing restoration and conservation needs of watersheds around the state. Paul reviews applications to ensure they are technically-sound and comply with SRFB evaluation criteria.