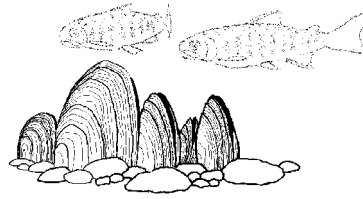


## Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



November 9, 2004  
MINUTES

Attendees were as follows: Al Smith, Dick Schetzel\*, Molly Hallock, Jen Stone, Wendy Walsh, Kevin Aitkin, and John Fleckenstein. On conference call were Kathy Thornburg, Michelle Steg, Nancy Duncan and Rob Plotnikoff. \*indicates invited guest.

Tour of Evergreen State College: Kevin, Dick, Jen, Wendy, Molly and Rob toured the location of the 2005 Symposium. There will be one “seminar” room, which holds ~80 people and up to three additional break-out rooms that each hold ~30. Parking is \$1.25 and lunch will cost ~\$6.00. The group needs to develop the Symposium Program before we can determine how many rooms we will need. The facilities were nice, the conference staff helpful, and this location is centrally located. The total rental cost will be between \$300 and \$375, depending on how many break-out rooms we will need.

Mussel Field Guide Status: The contract between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Water Tenders is in place. The contract between Ethan Nedeau and the Water Tenders is still being finalized. Once finalized and signed, Water Tenders will send Ethan 5k to begin work. The remaining 5k will be delivered upon completion of the project. Al has almost all of the information needed for the field guide organized. He is still looking for western floater shells to send to Ethan. Michelle has provided a few margaritifera shells that have the salmon-colored nacre. Al will work with Jayne Brim Box on getting underwater (in situ) photos of the mussels. There were a few concerns raised about the contract (can we manipulate the .pdf file, need to be explicit about Water Tenders holding the copyright, defining the word “property”, need clearer product expectations regarding content). Al and Dick will work together to make sure these concerns are addressed in the final contract.

Critical Needs Document: Al provided a brief history of this document. We began working on it during one of the first Workgroup meetings, and Rob has since taken the lead. The Workgroup suggested a few changes including adding host fish species identification, ecosystem function, cultural use (historic and contemporary), and fish passage issues. Wendy emphasized that the function of mussels within the ecosystem needed to be discussed. The Workgroup also suggested highlighting the potential function of salmonids throughout the document. John will talk to the tribal liaison at the Department of Natural Resources on how to address the cultural importance of middens.

Astoria Field Trip: Jen has spoken with Lee Cain, teacher at Astoria High School (Oregon), about a possible Workgroup field trip. Unfortunately Lee doesn't currently have any mussel related projects going on but will let Jen know when he does.

Other Field Trips: The Workgroup is interested in participating on other field trips, when possible. Kevin suggested revisiting the Chehalis River next summer and John mentioned going to Ozette lake and some of the coastal streams. The DNR has property in those areas so access should not be an issue. Another possibility is the Nature Conservancy's Sycan Marsh near Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Miscellaneous: Al reminded the group of the membership participation obligation. Anita Cook has removed herself from the Workgroup because of time constraints. The group discussed Terry Frest's status. He has not participated in a Workgroup meeting since the very first one. Al reviewed the membership guidelines that were developed during the May 27, 2004 Workgroup meeting and the group decided to move Terry to the inactive list. Wendy will forward any relevant information to Terry in the future to keep him informed.

2005 Symposium Program: The Workgroup decided to invite Lee Hastie as the keynote speaker. Rob Plotnikoff will contact him. The format of the Symposium was discussed. Wendy voiced concerns about not having local technical presentations and just having local technical posters. Al and a few others were concerned that there wouldn't be enough technical presentations to fill up a session, but requested that Jen solicit papers before the Workgroup made a final decision. Jen will send a request out to the listserve that will include the potential topics for mini-workshops. Jen will set the deadline for the response as December 1, and the Workgroup will make a decision by December 22. By the end of January, the Program should be finalized. A Symposium Committee was formed, and includes Nancy, Jen, Molly, Kevin, and Al.

Next Meeting: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10-3, Vancouver US Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Meeting Adjourned