

# RESTORING WATERSHED RESILIENCE

November 14, 2024 – Virtual Knowledge Exchange Workshop – Speaker Profiles

## DR ELLEN WOHL

Professor, Dept of Geosciences  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO



Ellen Wohl received a BS in geology from Arizona State University and a PhD in geosciences from the University of Arizona. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Colorado State University and leads a team of talented students working on topics such as wildfire response, physical-ecological interactions, carbon storage, large wood, and effects of beaver activities. Her specialty is fluvial geomorphology, and she focuses on physical process and form in rivers. Her research examines how physical process and form interact with biogeochemical processes, biota, and human communities to shape rivers and her work has important implications for how the recovery of salmon and steelhead. Dr Wohl has won a number of distinguished awards, including most recently the GK Warren award from the National Academy of Sciences.

Additional resources:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ellen-Wohl>

Messy Rivers presentation: <https://naturaldes.com/ellen-wohl/>

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2023CN000226>

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## DR PETE BISSON

Research Fish Biologist  
Pacific Northwest Research Station  
US Forest Service (Retired)



Dr Pete Bisson is a retired scientist with the US Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station and currently is the co-chair of the Science Advisory Panel for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. He earned Master of Science and Doctorate degrees in fisheries from Oregon State University and first worked for Weyerhaeuser in Tacoma, Washington before joining the US Forest Service, where his research examined evolution and systematics, fish populations, stream habitat and aquatic food webs, riparian zones, and management issues related to land use impacts on aquatic ecosystems. He has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and his research continues to make a significant contribution to the ongoing efforts to restore freshwater habitats across the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Dr Bisson has served on many Advisory Panels, held editorial roles and faculty appointments, and has received various prestigious awards through his prolific career including the Rise To The Future and Jim Sedell Research Achievement Awards from the US Forest Service, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award from the Federation of Fly Fishermen, and the Award of Excellence and Worthy Coelacanth Awards from the American Fisheries Society.

Additional resources:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/lwm/aem/people/bisson.html>

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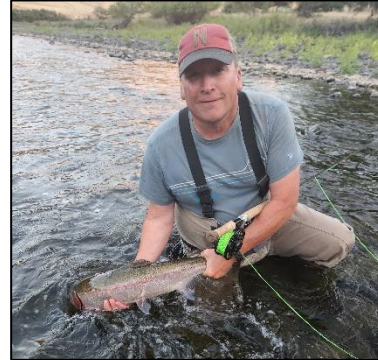
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## KRIS FISCHER

Fish Habitat Enhancement Project Lead  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian  
Reservation



Kris Fischer the Tucannon Fish Habitat Enhancement Project Lead for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation based in Walla Walla, Washington.

Kris holds an MS in Biology from the University of Nebraska and has over 25 years of experience with on-the-ground habitat restoration and monitoring work. Kris worked in the Upper Klamath Basin for over 15 years and has worked for the past 9+ years in the Tucannon River Basin in SE Washington. Kris plans and implements large-scale habitat restoration projects and when Kris isn't working, his favourite past time is fishing for steelhead.

Additional resources:

<https://fisherieshabitat.ctuir.org/>

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## DR NICK LAPOINTE

Senior Conservation Biologist,  
Freshwater Ecosystems  
Canadian Wildlife Federation



Dr Nick Lapointe is the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Senior Conservation Biologist focusing on freshwater ecology. Nick completed his doctorate in fisheries science at Virginia Tech and his research has focused on the highest threats to freshwater biodiversity, including invasive species, and habitat loss and alteration. In addition to Nick’s applied research, he also engages in policy advocacy, stewardship, outreach, and other actions to strategically conserve Canada’s freshwater biodiversity and inform conservation and management decisions.

In his spare time, Nick is an avid outdoorsman, spending his free time hunting, fishing, gathering, and gardening according to the season.

Additional Resources:

[https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/research-papers/Horsefly\\_WCRP\\_12-08-2021.pdf](https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/research-papers/Horsefly_WCRP_12-08-2021.pdf)

<https://blog.cwf-fcf.org/index.php/en/the-aquatic-barriers-interactive-web-tool-launches-now-with-complete-national-coverage/>

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## DR MARA ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director, Coast Salmon  
Partnership & Foundation



Mara Zimmerman is the Executive Director of the Coast Salmon Partnership in Washington State. Mara holds a PhD in biology from the University of Michigan and her career has been dedicated to the study and conservation of fish and their habitats. As Executive Director of Coast Salmon Partnership, Mara works with Tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations to protect and restore salmon habitat in the watersheds along Washington's Pacific Coast.

Additional resources:

<https://www.coastsalmonpartnership.org/current-initiatives/climate-framework/>

[https://coast-salmon-partnership.shinyapps.io/CRI\\_app/](https://coast-salmon-partnership.shinyapps.io/CRI_app/)

<https://coastsalmonpartnership.egnyte.com/dl/zdDxxvQRGO>

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## RACHEL BENBROOK

Washington Dept of Natural Resources



Rachel Benbrook works with Washington’s Department of Natural Resources as Program Lead for their Watershed Resilience Program, which is a coordinated “TREES TO SEAS” effort to support salmon recovery and ecosystem resilience in several Puget Sound watersheds. Rachel has broad knowledge of western Washington ecology, its watersheds, and communities through over 20 years of working on the water and in the woods focused on salmon recovery, habitat restoration, scientific monitoring, and community engagement projects.

Additional resources:

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/WatershedResilience>

[dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_watershed\\_resilience\\_plan\\_feb\\_2022.pdf](https://dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_watershed_resilience_plan_feb_2022.pdf)

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## DEVIN HALCROW

Forestry Coordinator  
Skeetchestn Natural Resources Corp  
Skeetchestn Indian Band



Devin is Forestry Coordinator for Skeetchestn Natural Resources and is also carrying out his master of science degree at Thompson Rivers University. Devin's research is examining the effectiveness of various hillslope mitigation treatments in the Deadman watershed of BC's Southern Interior after two recent and severe wildfires. He will be speaking about his work as well other watershed-scale restoration initiatives on the Deadman River led by Skeetchestn Indian Band.

Additional resources:

<https://skeetchestn.ca/natural-resources-corp/>

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## BRENLEY YUAN

Restoration Biologist  
Habitat Restoration Centre of Expertise  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Brenley Yuan has worked in BC's Southern Interior as a DFO Area Restoration Biologist doing watershed-scale habitat assessments to guide restoration planning, as well as creating site-specific restoration designs for riffle construction and floodplain re-engagement. Over the past two years, she worked with Skeetchestn Indian Band and other project partners on a riparian and floodplain restoration project in the Lower Deadman River. Most recently, Brenley now works for DFO's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program on small hydro projects.

Additional resources:

DFO Tech Bulletin on solar irrigation coming soon! It will be available here:

<https://science-libraries.canada.ca/eng/fisheries-oceans/>

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