

Bonnie Blessing

Hello

Our freeway crosses a lot of spotted frog drainages that I believe include designated critical habitat or very important habitats. For instance, DCH for this species is just downstream of I-5 near Tumwater. But upstream is a mitigation site for Thurston County. That mitigation site was one of the highest populations of spotted frogs. We want to keep connectivity between the 2 places (one of which is on each side of I-5) without destroying beaver dams.

Improving passage for salmon should not harm spotted frog habitat.

Also, one of our state's only endemic fish, the Olympic mudminnow occur in many ditches that go under I-5 in Thurston County. Be aware of their life cycle and avoid impacts

If you create stormwater ponds near spotted frogs or olympic mudminnow near I-5 you'd just have to expect them to use them.

If water backs up on the upstream side of I-5 that is used by spotted frogs can you avoid harming them during operations and maintenance of Interstate 5. How are you going to 'do that'?

Some people near I-5 are proposing to put their property into open space just south of 113th. I hope your operations and maintenance are compatible with their goals. Sometimes amphibians and fish just get themselves into all these man-made structures and ditches. Please acknowledge this and have plans to manage them and not murder them when the rare organisms enter man-made ditches. Many of these are run through wetlands or frequently flooded areas. Thank you for all you do