

## **Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (Zo Ann Morten)**

### **Streamkeepers Program**

#### Introduction

The Streamkeepers Program has been developed in response to the concerns of the many volunteers working on stream enhancement projects. In spite of volunteer efforts and government regulations, development pressures from our expanding population continue to threaten our aquatic habitats. Everyone, from residents to land developers, foresters, and farmers, needs to become aware of how important good watershed practices are to the long term protection of our environment.

#### Objectives of the Streamkeepers Program

- to provide volunteers with the training and support required to protect and restore local aquatic habitats
- to educate the public about the importance of watershed resources
- to encourage communication and cooperation in watershed management

#### Becoming Involved

The Streamkeepers Handbook describes several projects, ranging from simple to complex. Some take half a day, others several days a year. Your first step is to contact the nearest Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisor. In areas far from a Community Advisor's office, Water Management, Fisheries, or Habitat Protection staff at the nearest Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Lands, and Parks office may provide assistance.

#### Your Role

As a volunteer, you can share the responsibility for protecting aquatic habitats in your community. Some projects require formal approval or technical training, but many can be started right away. Always remember to ask for the permission of landowners when you wish to work on privately owned land. The information you collect will help you assess the health of your local streams and watershed and detect long-term changes. You will learn to recognize habitat problems and help design and undertake restoration projects in local streams and wetlands. You may need to work with local government, private companies, or residents to ensure that land use does not threaten local waterways. The data you collect also will be useful to government agencies, which do not have the resources to survey and monitor every stream.

### **I-2 Streamkeepers Handbook**

You can help increase awareness of watershed issues in your community and involve other people in your projects. Long term improvements in watershed health will be achieved only with community understanding and support. You may wish to start your own Streamkeepers Group.

The following posters show examples of community success with Streamkeepers Program protocols and directions as their foundation.

Visit <http://www.pskf.ca/mod10/posters/index.html>, or click on:

- [Solutions for Construction Runoff](#)
- [Solutions for Loss of Riparian Vegetation](#)
- [Solution for Showing Hatchery Success](#)
- [Solution for Monitoring Stream Change Over Time](#)
- [Solutions for Storm Drain Awareness](#)
- [Solution for Community Awareness](#)
- [Solution for Community Awareness of Water Quality](#)