John Runyon

Principal | Watershed Ecologist

503 894 8585 x3
jrunyon@cascadeenv.com

EDUCATION

M.S., Ecology, Oregon State University, 1992

M.S., Environmental Policy, University of Oregon, 1988

B.S., Biology, Oregon State University, 1983

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Fisheries Society

River Restoration Northwest

Washington Watershed Analysis Certification

EXPERIENCE

Principal, Cascade Environmental Group, LLC, Portland, Oregon, May 2011 – Present

Principal, Water Resources Manager, ICF/Jones & Stokes, Portland, Oregon, October 2007 – April 2011

Watershed Program Manager, Adolfson Associates, Portland, Oregon, October 2005 – October 2007

Owner and Principal Scientist, BioSystems Consulting, Corvallis, Oregon, June 1995 – September 2005

Monitoring Program Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem, Oregon, August 1992 – May 1995

QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. John Runyon is a Principal with Cascade Environmental Group, LLC. John is responsible for overseeing watershed assessment, planning, and habitat restoration projects. He has more than 20 years of experience in natural resource assessment, management, inventory, monitoring, and policy. John specializes in the design and implementation of watershed and habitat assessments, natural resource studies, and aquatic habitat restoration project planning and design. He has extensive experience managing complex, multidisciplinary water resource projects that involve landowners, industry, government agencies, and non-profits. A recognized expert in watershed assessment, John was a key member of the team that developed the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual, and he has completed more than 30 watershed assessments, stream reach evaluations, and restoration action plans throughout the western United States.

John's areas of expertise include: Managing, writing and editing technical reports, publications, and grant proposals; watershed analysis and stream/riparian habitat assessments; water quality and aquatic resource monitoring; fish abundance surveys; fish passage barrier assessment; fish population limiting factors analysis; applying the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) model to evaluate fish population and habitat relationships; and river and floodplain habitat restoration project planning and implementation.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Beaver Creek Large Wood Placement - SOLVE, Portland, Oregon

Project Manager. John managed a multidisciplinary team that planned and implemented a large wood placement project for Beaver Creek, a tributary to the lower Sandy River. The project, which was designed to mitigate for aquatic habitat modifications resulting from the I-84 bridge expansion, involved close coordination with the Oregon Department of State Lands and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to assure that design elements met fish habitat benchmarks. The project was within the City of Troutdale, which involved coordination with the City staff, and included an analysis of flood risk, a no-rise certification, and communication with FEMA to document the analysis. John was responsible for overseeing all project components, including the engineering design, permitting, agency coordination, and construction contracting and supervision.

Rinearson Creek Restoration Alternatives Analysis - SOLVE and the City of Gladstone, Gladstone, Oregon

Project Manager and Facilitator. John is leading a multidisciplinary team that is assessing ecological conditions, evaluating restoration alternatives, and developing the engineering design for the removal of a dam on a tributary stream within the floodplain of the lower Willamette River. Restoration components analyzed included dam removal, sediment management, and habitat improvements. The project requires intensive coordination with the owner of the dam (the City of Gladstone, Oregon) and involves extensive landowner and stakeholder outreach and education. His responsibilities include summarizing current information on site characteristics, developing study plans, facilitating meetings, coordinating with state and federal agencies, and writing funding proposals.

Middle and Lower Molalla River Restoration Action Plan - Molalla River Watershed Council and Molalla River Improvement District, Molalla, Oregon
Project Manager and Action Plan Author. John worked with the Molalla River Watershed Council, Molalla River Improvement District, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to synthesize current information on the lower Molalla River, including summarizing USGS's recently completed geomorphic assessment and identifying factors limiting ESA-listed fish. The Restoration Action Plan included a summary of river reach characteristics and recommended restoration actions and projects to address improving habitat for spring Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Pine Hollow–Jackknife Creek Watershed Assessment - Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District and Watershed Council, Moro, Oregon
Project Manager and Fish and Aquatic Habitat Lead. John completed a watershed assessment for two important tributaries to the Lower John Day River, Pine Hollow and Jackknife Creeks. The project involved analyzing data, developing GIS and other databases, and summarizing the findings, including producing a comprehensive series of maps depicting watershed resources, water quality and quantity, habitats, and fish population status. The assessment, which summarizes the Sub-Basin Plan and the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Plan, describes the watersheds within the context of the larger John Day Basin's ecological setting and contribution to ESA-listed steelhead.

Johnson Creek Restoration and Climate Change Analysis - City of Portland, Portland, Oregon
Co-Author. John completed a report for the City of Portland that evaluated current and planned stream restoration projects for Johnson Creek, a tributary to the Lower Willamette River. The study evaluated the stream's limiting factors with the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) model and analyzed the impact of restoration projects on ESA-listed coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The report included a detailed evaluation of the potential impact of climate change on fish populations and recommended restoration strategies to minimize future climate change impacts.

Clackamas Basin Watershed Synthesis and Action Plan - Clackamas River Basin Council, Clackamas, Oregon
Technical Lead. John assisted in the development of watershed assessments and restoration action plans for the Clackamas River Basin Council. The watershed assessments, which focused on the Clear, Foster, and Deep Creek subwatersheds, described watershed processes, stream habitat and fish population limiting factors, and recommended restoration actions. After the completion of the subbasin assessments, John developed a basin-wide synthesis of aquatic habitat characteristics, summarized factors limiting fish populations, and outlined restoration actions.

Greater Oregon City Watershed Assessment and Restoration Action Plan - Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, Oregon City, Oregon
Project Manager and Lead Author. John led a multidisciplinary team that completed a watershed assessment and restoration project action plan for the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council. The assessment focused on the Abernethy and Beaver Creek watersheds, which encompass 40 square miles in Clackamas County and include the Oregon City urban growth area. The factors limiting habitat quality and fish populations were evaluated for each of the subwatersheds and further divided into discrete stream reaches. The assessment was followed by a prioritized watershed restoration action plan that identified actions to restore fish populations and improve water quality.

Upper Deschutes Basin ESA Risk Assessment - Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Redmond, Oregon
Project Manager and Lead Author. Steelhead trout, which are listed as threatened under the ESA, are being reintroduced into the Upper Deschutes Basin. John managed a multidisciplinary team that assisted the cities and counties of central Oregon in evaluating whether current local government policies and practices are sufficiently protective of steelhead and their habitat. Land-use planning, stormwater management, pesticide management, and road maintenance operations were evaluated for the participating cities and counties. Municipal water diversion, groundwater withdrawal, and wastewater discharge activities were examined for the participating cities. The evaluation was informed by current guidance and best management practices designed to assist local governments in the modification of their activities to comply with ESA requirements for salmon and steelhead.

Fish Population and Aquatic Habitat and Limiting Factor Summaries for the Willamette Sub-Basin Plan - Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Willamette Restoration Initiative, Salem, Oregon
Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Technical Lead. John was responsible for completing fish population and limiting factors assessments for the Willamette Sub-Basin Plan in support of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin planning process. This work included developing habitat, fish population, and watershed condition summaries for all of the major watersheds within the Willamette Sub-Basin and the mainstem Willamette River. As part of the planning process, John led a team that developed an Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) database for the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers.