



## **Summer 2013 Snorkel Surveys for Fish Abundance**

*Engaging the community to sustain our watershed*

Tualatin River Watershed Council is contracting with Bio-Surveys, LLC this summer to collect information on the streams that juvenile salmonids are using for summer rearing habitat in the Gales Creek, upper Tualatin River, and the Dairy-McKay Creek watersheds. If you live in one of these areas, you may be contacted by Bio-Surveys or Tualatin River Watershed Council for access to the stream area on your property.

This method of collecting information is called a rapid bio-assessment (RBA) and provides detailed information on the distribution and abundance of juvenile salmonids to help the Tualatin Watershed Council spend our restoration dollars wisely. As the surveyors progress up each mainstem and tributary, they snorkel every fifth pool. They count the number of each salmonid species observed and quantify habitat characteristics. The survey continues from the mouth of each stream and tributary to a point where at least two consecutive surveyed units (a span of 10 pools) contain no juvenile steelhead or Coho.

The data is being collected to improve our understanding as a community of how salmonids are utilizing our watersheds for spawning, rearing and summer refugia. In the long term, this information will help us prepare a meaningful restoration plan for the coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout that are known to inhabit the Tualatin basin.

Our hope is that you will join us and your neighbors in taking this important first step to learn more about how the stream in your back yard fits into the larger picture for salmonids in the Tualatin basin. We anticipate a final report document available with the results of the inventory by April, 2014.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact April Olbrich, 503-846-4810, [trwc@trwc.org](mailto:trwc@trwc.org) or Barbara Trask, Bio-Surveys, 541-487-4484, [sbtrask@peak.org](mailto:sbtrask@peak.org).