

Presenter Biographical Statements

Kollin Higgins, King County DNRP WLRD

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Kollin Higgins is a Senior Ecologist in the Science and Technical Support Section of King County Water and Land Resources Division. He received his Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University in Marine Biology and Zoology in 1992, and his Master Degree in Fisheries Policy at the University of Washington in 1999.

Prior to graduating from the UW, he worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Washington Department of Ecology, the International Pacific Halibut Commission and the University of Washington. Since graduating from the UW in 1999 he has worked for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Kollin's work for the County has been varied, but has generally focused on supporting salmon recovery efforts throughout the County's various watersheds. Kollin worked on a large marine fish sampling project that documented juvenile salmonid use throughout King County's marine shorelines. Kollin has managed data collection projects along the marine shoreline to inventory existing infrastructure and feeder bluffs. Kollin provided technical and policy assistance (especially on marine shorelines) for the first update of the County's Shoreline Master Plan since 1975. His time is currently focused on salmon recovery planning and restoration projects in the Green Duwamish (including Vashon/Maury Islands) and the Snoqualmie watersheds.

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John Bethel, Licensed Engineering Geologist

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John Bethel recently retired from a 30-year career as a Senior Geologist for King County in the State of Washington. Mr. Bethel received his Bachelor's in 1977 in Geology and his Master Degree in 1982 in Forest Soils, both from the University of Washington. After graduating from the UW he worked for the US Geological Survey and in private consulting until 1987. From 1987 until 2017 Mr. Bethel was employed as a geologist in various capacities at King County. At King county Mr. Bethel worked on review of permit applications in geologically hazardous areas, on development of King County Code as it relates to geologic hazards, he worked on and managed stream restoration and channel stabilization projects. He worked on channel migration studies and was the technical lead for mapping landslides hazards along river corridors in King County following the 2014 SR530/Oso tragedy. Mr. Bethel is a member of the Geological Society of America, The Association of Engineering and Environmental Geology, and the Northwest Geological Society. Mr. Bethel is a Licensed Geologist and Engineering Geologist in Washington State.



Dan Pederson Photo

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EDUCATION

Coursework
School of Fisheries Management
University of Washington

Bachelor of Forestry
University of California, Berkeley

Coursework
Zoology
University of California, Los Angeles

Elliott Menashe, Greenbelt Consulting **Forester, Vegetation Management Specialist**

Elliott has more than 40 years of experience in the resource management field, conducting stream and wetland restorations, re-vegetation projects, hazard tree management assessments, pre-development planning, forest management plans & implementation of timber-stand improvement measures, landscape appraisals, ecological restoration, wetland delineations, and marine bluff vegetation stabilization projects for private individuals and homeowner associations, environmental protection organizations, agencies, and municipalities throughout Western Washington. As the owner of Greenbelt Consulting, Elliott has been published widely and speaks regularly on environmental topics, including as an instructor for a variety of shoreline management classes for local jurisdictions. Elliott wrote "*Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners*" (DOE Pub. 93-31), which has become the standard shore vegetation management guidance publication for the region. He is the originator of the "biostructural engineering" approach to slope stabilization, which combines structural, biotechnical, and vegetative elements to restore slopes and reduce erosion. This approach has been tested and proven effective in numerous mitigation and restoration projects. He has developed numerous proprietary techniques for shoreline revegetation and stabilization. Elliott has developed an innovative conceptual alternative to conventional shoreline armoring. The "root wall" concept, which uses large trees as major structural components, has been incorporated into several recent soft-shore protection projects.

*"I try to educate, inform, and assist landowners so they can make better land use decisions and take pride in preserving the unique features of the Puget Sound region. My education and experience—combined with a love of exploring the outdoors—has taught me how closely our well-being is linked with that of our environment. With increased population density, we need to do a better job of solving tomorrow's crises today. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of riprap."
—Elliott Menashe*

Relevant Project Experience

- Technical Advisor, *Island Beach Access*, Greenbank, WA
- Technical Forestry Advisor, *Whidbey Camano Land Trust*
- Shoreline Management Advisor, *Friends of the San Juans* Landowner Assistance Project, funded by PSAT
- Technical Advisor, *Metro Parks Tacoma*
- Technical Advisor, *Washington Sea Grant*, relating to development of a "Marine Shoreline Planting Guide"
- Technical Advisor, interpretive trail development for *Whidbey Institute*
- Program, curriculum, and binder development for "*Shoreline Management and Stabilization Using Vegetation*," classes for coastal planners, funded by NOAA, through the Washington Coastal Training Program
- Technical Advisor, program development for the *Native Plant Salvage Project*, sponsored by South Whidbey Tilth

Before becoming a private consultant in 1987, Menashe worked for the University of California's Forestry Dept, in various capacities as a professional forester, wildlife biologist, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Educator/Trainer, and wildland firefighter/lookout for the US Forest Service and private industry; as a fisheries and cetacean biologist for the Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington State Department of Fisheries, University of Washington, and Oregon State University; and as an environmental planner for the Washington State Conservation Commission.