

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [Jill Nixon](#); [Jake Logan](#); Executive; [Cathy Halka](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 12:30:07 PM

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## Advisory Group Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

**THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT:** As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	Mr.
First Name	Colin
Last Name	Wahl
Today's Date	1/29/2025
Street Address	██████████
City	██████████
Zip	██████
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary	██████████ ██████████
Secondary Telephone	██████████
Email Address	████████████████████

### Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Marine Resource Committee

Group

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Marine Resource  
Committee Position:

Relevant Scientific Experience

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2. Do you meet the  
residency,  
employment, and/or  
affiliation requirements  
of the position for  
which you're applying?

Yes

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3. Which Council  
district do you live in?

District 2

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4. Have you ever been  
a member of this  
Advisory Group

Yes

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If yes, please list dates:

December 2020-January 2025

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5. Do you or your  
spouse have a financial  
interest in or are you  
an employee or officer  
of any business or  
agency that does  
business with  
Whatcom County?

No

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6. Have you declared  
candidacy (as defined  
by RCW 42.17A.055)  
for a paid elected office  
in any jurisdiction  
within the county?

No

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You may attach a  
resume or detailed  
summary of  
experience,  
qualifications, &  
interest in response to  
the following questions

[Wahl\\_CM\\_CV.pdf](#)

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7. Please describe your  
occupation (or former  
occupation if retired),  
qualifications,

I am currently a Senior Restoration Ecologist for the Skagit River System Cooperative where I am charged with implementing the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan on behalf of the Swinomish and Sauk Suiattle Tribes. I work with tribes, counties, cities,

professional and/or community activities, and education

landowners, landowners and local stakeholders, as well as state and federal agencies to develop and implement restoration projects. I also own a small local business with two partners that specializes in marine surveying and monitoring.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

I am interested in the MRC because I would like to contribute to my community by offering my experience and expertise to protect the marine resources important to it.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Kathy Ketteridge: [REDACTED]

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Colin Wahl

Place Signed / Submitted

Burlington, Wa

(Section Break)

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

# COLIN M. WAHL

## Ecologist

Experienced ecologist and environmental scientist well versed in the freshwater and marine ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest, recovery plans and resource protection frameworks, developing and implementing habitat restoration projects, and working with local tribes, contractors, governments, regulatory agencies and other partners to protect and restore natural resources.

## EDUCATION

### MASTER OF SCIENCE, BIOLOGY, 2012

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

*“Patterns in Land Use, Riparian Forest, and Biological Stream Conditions in the Puget Lowlands of Western Washington*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY, 2008

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

*“The Impacts of Paleolithic Peoples and Climate on the Pleistocene Extinction of North American MegaFauna”*

## PUBLICATIONS

Wahl CM, Niels A, Hooper D. 2013. *Impacts of land use at the catchment scale constrain the habitat benefits of stream riparian buffers*. Journal of Freshwater Biology, **58**, 2310-2324.

LeDoux B, Engle J, Ruff M, Wahl C. 2017. *WRIA 7 Climate Change Impacts to Salmon Issue Paper*.

[https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41032/2\\_2\\_2017\\_WRIA-7-Climate-Change-Impacts-on-Salmon\\_Final\\_Draft](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41032/2_2_2017_WRIA-7-Climate-Change-Impacts-on-Salmon_Final_Draft)

## CAREER SUMMARY

### SWIFTWATER MARINE SERVICES, Bellingham, Wa:

#### **OWNER, PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST** (October 2023 – present)

- Marine habitat condition evaluation and assessment and critical areas review
- Protected Species monitoring and observation

### SKAGIT RIVER SYSTEM COOPERATIVE, La Conner, WA; (360) 466-7228

#### **SENIOR RESTORATION ECOLOGIST** (April 2021 – present)

*Plan and implement salmon habitat restoration projects consistent with the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan.*

- Implement the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan.
- Serve on various recovery planning groups.
- Evaluate, plan, coordinate, and execute salmon habitat restoration projects
- Secure grant funding and manage grants.

### TULALIP TRIBES, Tulalip, WA; 360-716-4482

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, TREATY RIGHTS OFFICE** (April 2016 – April 2021)

*Analyze, amend, develop, and implement the WRIA 7 salmon recovery plan. Track threats to treaty rights and resources, advocate for treaty rights, draft official government to government comments.*

- Implement the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.
- Co-chair the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
- Update the Plan with new information on climate change and recovery progress over the first 10 years.
- Track and compile adult and juvenile species abundance statistics to provide reports on progress to basin partners.
- Interim lead coordinator for the Tulalip Tribes’ Climate Change Adaptation Plan, April-August 2017.
- Manage EPA tribal capacity grants and subawards and conduct routine EPA grant reporting and policy compliance.

### SAUK-SUIATTLE INDIAN TRIBE, Darrington, WA; (425) 530-9993

#### **FIELD COORDINATOR** (November 2014 – April 2016)

*Developed monthly schedules for environmental monitoring studies, supervised and coordinated a diverse group of tribal*

*technicians, managed and analyzed our GIS database, assisted with grant reporting and program development.*

- Supervised, trained, and managed natural resources department technical staff
- Coordinated with fish, wildlife, and water quality managers to set schedules and plan projects
- Aided writing grant proposals, and grant reports for agency compliance.
- Organized suspended sediment sampling teams during high water events in collaboration with USGS.
- Professionally and sensitively addressed significant personnel problems.
- Managed the Sauk River summer knotweed eradication program with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

SKAGIT RIVER SYSTEM COOPERATIVE, LaConner, WA; (360) 466-7228

**SCIENTIFIC TECHNICIAN** (May 2012 – November 2014)

*Filled various roles participating in a variety of important research and monitoring studies addressing and analyzing management and conservation of salmon populations and habitat in the Skagit River and Whidbey Basins.*

- Conducted weekly Skagit River test fishery and collected data for mid-season adjustments in harvest management.
- Handled, identified, sexed, and sampled thousands of fish.
- Conduct spawning ground surveys in main stem and tributary spawning grounds.
- Conduct field research on migration patterns of juvenile salmon
- Participated in project effectiveness/utilization monitoring programs for estuary restoration projects.

SKAGIT RIVER SYSTEM COOPERATIVE, LaConner, WA

**ELK TRAPPING COORDINATOR** (January 2014 – April 2014)

*Coordinated the inter-agency 2014 elk trapping season. Established and monitored remote bait sites and trapping locations.*

*Communicated and organized large diverse team of 20+ program directors, biologist, and technicians.*

- Coordinated the trapping and radio-collaring effort for the co-managed Nooksack/North Cascade Elk herd.
- Organized and scheduled a team of biologists and technicians from five participating tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Seattle City Light, as well as numerous landowners and timber companies..
- Assembled trap transport and installation teams, and scheduled twice-daily trap checks and daily response teams to quickly investigate captures and safely collar and/or release animals.