



Islands Trust
2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

**WINNER: ISLAND STREAM AND SALMON
ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY
SALT SPRING ISLAND**

CATEGORY: GROUP/ ORGANIZATION
PROJECT: WATERSHED AND STREAM RESTORATION
NOMINATOR: SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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Project Description:

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society (ISSES) is one of the largest environmental groups on Salt Spring Island with over three hundred and fifty members. ISSES have been working in the Salt Spring Island watersheds for over eighteen years. They have identified and mapped all of the twenty fish bearing streams and met with the landowners. They have worked in all of the watersheds on the island by assessing the environmental assets and problems in each watershed, and then they have slowly addressed most of the problems.

ISSES also works with local government to obtain covenants along all streams and wetlands during the development process. Covenants are now in place along most of the sensitive creeks and ISSES continues to monitor these covenants for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection. ISSES works with over three hundred different landowners and has stream keepers and school projects in all of the fish bearing wetlands on Salt Spring Island. Over four hundred students from the Island and Vancouver Island have received stream keepers training.

ISSES is a non-profit organization that provides training for at risk youth, displaced fishers, and the disabled and long-term unemployed people. ISSES operate a wetland plant nursery on 25 acres of donated rent-free land. They have planted thousands of native plants at restoration sites on the Island. From the conservation style hatchery on Cusheon Creek, they restock their streams that they restore. Salt Spring Island now has trout in all twenty watersheds with two species of salmon (Coho and Chum) returning to ten streams.

Since 2000, ISSES has become more involved in working with government agencies and other stakeholders to form watershed committees and to develop management plans for the major watersheds on the Island, including the St. Mary Lake-Duck Creek watershed and the Fulford and Cusheon Creek watersheds.