Robin Jenkinson

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION • COMMUNITY PLANNING • ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION • PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Salt Spring Island, British Columbia | 250 221 0011 | riverJenkinson@gmail.com

Professional Profile

Restoration ecologist, community planner and environmental educator with more than twenty years of experience connecting ecological science, land and water stewardship, community priorities and practical implementation. Experienced in watershed-scale planning, grant and budget management, Indigenous knowledge-holder engagement, GIS, active transportation planning and clear public communication. Gulf Islands organizer with a record of convening diverse partners, translating technical information for public audiences, and moving initiatives from vision through funding and delivery.

Qualifications Relevant to Islands Trust

Ecological stewardship
Watersheds, riparian areas, wetlands, forests, fisheries habitat and restoration monitoring

Land use and community planning
Urban design, GIS, official-plan and bylaw research, active transportation and cumulative-effects thinking

Governance and collaboration
Boards, committees, intergovernmental coordination, policy review, budgets and multi-partner initiatives

Indigenous relations
Postgraduate training plus field-based collaboration with Indigenous educators and knowledge holders

Public engagement
Community workshops, facilitation, environmental education, journalism, radio and community events

Project delivery
More than $1.2 million in grants secured for watershed, education and community projects; permitting and construction oversight

Education and Professional Training

2026 Postgraduate Micro Certificate in Indigenous Co-Management of Natural Resources, University of British Columbia
2025 Postgraduate Certificate in Traditional Ecological Knowledge Recording, University of Northern British Columbia
2017 Professional Certificate in Urban Design, Simon Fraser University
2017 Riparian Areas Regulation Certification, Vancouver Island University
2014 Agent of Change Training, Center for Earth Leadership, Portland, Oregon
2010 Ford Institute Leadership Program, Hood River, Oregon
2004 Master of Science in Fisheries and River Management, University of Idaho
2000 Bachelor of Science in Botany, University of Washington

Civic Leadership and Community Planning

Island Pathways Contractor and GoByBikeBC Coordinator | Island Pathways
Salt Spring Island, BC | 2017 to 2026

- Advance the proposed Fulford-Ganges-Vesuvius regional multi-use trail through strategic advocacy, grant management, public outreach and meetings involving the CRD, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and community partners.
- Fundraised and coordinated two active-transportation projects for Ganges-area schools, producing safety education, surveys and reports and supporting installation of a bike ramp, speed reader and crosswalk connection to Mouat Park.
- Organize annual GoByBikeBC programming and public events that connect climate action, health, tourism, mobility and community life.

Coordinator | Tour des Îles
Southern Gulf Islands, BC | 2025, 2026

- Coordinated a multi-island passenger transportation and community event linking Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna, Thetis and Penelakut, working across ferry routes, local organizations, communities and event partners.

Host and Producer | Archipelager Hour, CHIR FM Community Radio
Southern Gulf Islands, BC | 2025 to present

- Produce and host a weekly program featuring island ecology, community initiatives, transportation, culture and regional connections through interviews and public-interest storytelling.

Park Kanaka Neighbourhood POD Coordinator
Salt Spring Island, BC | 2016 to 2024

- Built a 43-household emergency and community network; organized gatherings, shared ecological-design research concerning Swanson Pond and coordinated a neighbourhood farmstand.

Community Leadership | *1998 to 2016*

- Chaired Ganges Village OCP Review committee, Islands Trust, appointed volunteer. .
- Co-founded the Palouse Prairie Foundation and organized education, conservation, restoration, a science symposium, public hikes and a demonstration prairie.
- Led neighbourhood organizing in Portland and Seattle, including emergency preparedness, traffic calming, park restoration, native planting, interpretive signage, public art, grants and community events.
- Led a Ford Institute Leadership cohort project supporting improvements to the historic Mt. Hood Town Hall.

Environmental Education and Indigenous Collaboration

WildBC Facilitator | Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Southern Gulf Islands, BC | March 2019 to present

- Support Wild Schools across the Gulf Islands, including schools on Salt Spring, Galiano, Penelakut and Saturna, through place-based outdoor learning, nature journaling and biodiversity activities.
- Coordinate field learning with farms, salmon enhancement groups, research institutes, conservancies, Parks Canada and Indigenous knowledge holders.
- Deliver professional development on integrating ecological knowledge, outdoor experience and respectful collaboration with Indigenous knowledge holders into primary education.

Indigenous Education Supporter | Gulf Islands School District 64

Southern Gulf Islands, BC | 2020 to present

- Secure funding and collaborate with Indigenous Education staff and knowledge holders on clam-garden field trips, art and song activities, and a native plant and medicine garden and gathering space at the Huy ch q'u Welcome Figure.

School Garden Coordinator | Salt Spring Elementary and Gulf Islands School Gardens

Southern Gulf Islands, BC | 2016 to 2024

- Organized families, educators, farms and community partners to establish and sustain school gardens across the district; raised close to $100,000 for school-garden and related projects.
- Taught ten kindergarten-to-Grade-5 classes weekly for several years and developed workshops, articles, presentations, shared resources and garden-based learning events.
- Completed the School Garden Support Organization Leadership Institute, School Garden Coordinator Certificate Training and Teaching in Nature's Classroom in 2021.

Ecological Restoration and Watershed Science

Environmental Consultant | Saturna Island Marine and Research Education Society

Saturna Island, BC | 2024 and 2026

- Provided independent review of a proposal for kelp restoration, cetacean monitoring and public education.
- Prepared desktop ecological and planning research concerning Cactus Point on Saturna Island.

Biologist | Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Salt Spring Island, BC | 2017 to 2019

- Independently reviewed wetland and stream restoration at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve through document review, interviews and site visits; prepared concise illustrated evaluation reports for grant reporting.
- Advised on wetland and stream restoration and drafted species-at-risk material as needed.

Research Technician | Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and ENS de Lyon

Lyon, France | July 2015 to January 2016

- Used GIS to digitize and map historic changes since 15th c. in braided-river morphology along the upper Rhône River.
- Piloted portable X-ray fluorescence analysis to investigate riverine driftwood provenance and assisted with sedimentation monitoring and detection of PIT-tagged pebbles in restored Rhône and Ain side channels.

Watershed Science Director | Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Portland, Oregon | March 2010 to June 2015

- Coordinated restoration of Portland's only free-flowing salmon stream with five cities, two counties, Metro and numerous state and federal agencies.
- Managed riparian reforestation, fish-passage assessment and monitoring of water quality, temperature, bacteria, freshwater mussels, coho spawning and benthic macroinvertebrates.
- Secured permits and managed construction of two major fish-habitat projects involving more than 150 logs, an engineered riffle and riparian reforestation.
- Raised more than $700,000 for watershed enhancement and led development of the 2015-2025 Johnson Creek Watershed Action Plan.

- Presented technical work to the board, public agencies, community audiences and regional and national conferences.

Shortcourse Coordinator and Lecturer | River Restoration Fluvial Geomorphic and Ecological Processes

France and California | 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2015

- Organized four five-day professional short courses with Dr. Matt Kondolf of UC Berkeley and other faculty; lectured on river-restoration monitoring and Pacific Northwest practice.

Private Environmental Consultant | Inter-Fluve Inc. and Cramer Fish Sciences

Pacific Northwest | 2006 and 2009 to 2010

- Authored a fisheries management plan, aquatic habitat assessments and technical memoranda addressing salmonid habitat, restoration opportunities and stormwater.
- Collected snorkel, topographic, GPS and GIS field data and identified restoration opportunities and human-made constraints.

Associate Director Watershed Program | Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Portland, Oregon | 2007 to 2009

- Helped watershed groups and Tribes develop, fund and deliver long-term adaptive restoration and monitoring programs.
- Translated complex monitoring results and restoration concepts into posters, articles, presentations and video; researched climate-change implications for Northwest rivers.

GIS Technician | Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Juneau, Alaska | 2006 to 2007

- Mapped historic herring-spawn areas across Alaska, compiled geoduck data and assisted with a Southeast Alaska sea-lion survey aboard the M.V. Kestrel.

Biological Technician | Tongass National Forest, U.S. Forest Service

Southeast Alaska | 2005 to 2006

- Attributed and modelled salmonid presence, habitat and culvert passage to prioritize barrier removal; maintained PIT-tag antennae and captured and tagged salmonids.
- Conducted remote post-logging vegetation surveys on Kupreanof Island during extended field rotations.

Researcher | National River Restoration Science Synthesis Working Group

United States | 2002 to 2006

- Compiled and analyzed a database of more than 23,000 Pacific Northwest river-restoration projects and designed and conducted interviews with project managers.
- Published findings and recommendations in Science, Restoration Ecology and the Journal of Applied Ecology; secured grant support for project evaluation and a River Restoration Road Trip with American Rivers.

Watershed Technician | Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute

Moscow, Idaho | 2000 to 2002

- Designed and installed stream-restoration projects, evaluated water quality and aquatic macroinvertebrates, taught environmental curricula and coordinated volunteers.
- Secured more than $400,000 in project funding and founded the Palouse Prairie Foundation.

Restoration Ecology Technician | Starflower Foundation

Seattle, Washington | 1999 to 2000

- Implemented urban park restoration using sheet mulching, native revegetation, mycorrhizal inoculation and other low-impact techniques; controlled reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberry.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Rumps, J. M., et al. 2007. “Stream Restoration in the Pacific Northwest: Analysis of Interviews with Project Managers.” Restoration Ecology 15(3): 506–515.

Bernhardt, E. S., et al. 2007. “Restoring Rivers One Reach at a Time: Results from a Survey of U.S. River Restoration Practitioners.” Restoration Ecology 15(3): 482–493.

Jenkinson, R., et al. 2006. “Stream Restoration Databases and Case Studies: A Guide to Information Resources and Their Utility in Advancing the Science and Practice of Restoration.” Restoration Ecology 14(2): 177–186.

Bernhardt, E. S., et al. 2005. “Synthesizing U.S. River Restoration Efforts.” Science 308: 636–637.

Palmer, M. A., et al. 2005. “Standards for Ecologically Successful River Restoration.” Journal of Applied Ecology 42: 208–217.

Selected Environmental and Community Writing

“Sea Garden Magic: Maricultural Renewal.” Folklife Magazine and Archipelager, 2025.

“Ebiking the Southern Gulf Islands.” Aqua Magazine, 2025.

"Gulf Islands School Gardens." Aqua Magazine, 2017.

Contributor of articles on ecology, active transportation, food systems, environmental education and Gulf Islands community life to Gulf Islands Driftwood, Aqua Magazine and Salt Spring Exchange.

Founder and writer, Archipelager, an ongoing publication about ecology, transportation, island communities and life across the Salish Sea, 2025 to present.

Selected Presentations

2024 "Plants and People." WildBC Facilitators Gathering, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Manning Park, BC.

2024 "Active Transportation Jeopardy." BC Cycling Coalition Active Transportation Summit, New Westminster, BC.

2023 "Local Sourcing for Gulf Islands School Meals." Future of Food Panel, Rural Islands Economic Partnership, Gabriola Island, BC.

2019 "Sustaining School Gardens." CRFAIR Good Food Summit, Victoria, BC.

2019 "Fostering Food Literacy through Gulf Islands School Gardens." National Farm to School Conference, Victoria, BC.

2015 "Aménagement d'une rivière à l'échelle du bassin-versant: Johnson Creek, Portland, Oregon, USA." Café Fluviale, UMR 5600, ENS de Lyon, France.

2015 "2015-2025 Johnson Creek Watershed Action Plan." Johnson Creek Watershed Council Annual Meeting and Science Symposium, Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

2014 "Collaborating for Open Salmon Migration." Urban Ecology Research Consortium and Within Our Reach Willamette Conference, Oregon.

2013 "Best Practices for Watershed Restoration Action Planning." Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Conference, Newport, Oregon.

2013 "3-D Virtual Tour of the Johnson Creek Watershed." Public science presentation, Gresham, Oregon.

2013 "Who's Pooping in Johnson Creek? Results of a Microbial Source Tracking Study." Urban Ecology Research Consortium, Portland, Oregon.

2012 "State of the Watershed 2012." Johnson Creek Watershed Council Annual Meeting, Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

2012 "Salmon Habitat Enhancement at the Confluence of Johnson Creek and the Willamette River." Oregon Chapter, American Fisheries Society, Eugene, Oregon.

2008 "Basin-Scale, Community-Driven, Long-Term and Scientific River Restoration Programs in Western France and the Northwestern United States." European Centre for River Restoration, Venice, Italy.

2007–08 "Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Partnerships." Posters presented at five national and regional conferences.

2006 "La gestion des cours d'eau aux États-Unis: Zoom sur la Columbia." Colloque Loire Nature, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

2006 "Pacific Northwest Results of the National River Restoration Science Synthesis." River Restoration Northwest Conference, Stevenson, Washington.

2004 "Stream Restoration in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond." Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

2003 "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Stream Restoration in the Pacific Northwest." Society for Ecological Restoration and Society of Wetland Scientists Northwest Conference, Portland, Oregon.

Additional Information

Languages English and French