

ALEA

AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT
VOLUNTEER COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM
OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS COMPLETED
JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2009



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REPORT PHOTOS

The project photos included in this report were provided courtesy of the ALEA grantees unless otherwise indicated.

Cover photo: Abraham Cole helps plant native trees in the Tarboo Creek riparian area.
Photo by Ian Hinkle for the Northwest Watershed Institute.

THE FOLLOWING WDFW EMPLOYEES WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE GRANTEES FOR PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE PROJECTS:

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The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program provides funding, on a cost-reimbursement basis, for individuals and organizations that undertake volunteer cooperative fish and wildlife projects in Washington State. Eligible project types include: Habitat Enhancement, Facility Development, Research, Education/Outreach, and Artificial Production.

Proposals are reviewed and scored, following established criteria, by a panel of eighteen Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) employees representing all regions and programs. A ranked list of projects is presented to WDFW's Executive Management Team (EMT) for their review. EMT's recommendations are then forwarded to the Director for approval.

Grantees receive their ALEA funds by submitting reimbursement requests and are paid for actual costs incurred. After completing their project, any remaining funds are forfeited by grantee. These funds may be used to award additional grants to the projects next in line for funding as determined by the ranked list.

Projects that are awarded a grant are assigned a WDFW field contact who provides technical assistance if needed. Quarterly progress reports are submitted by both the grantee and the field contact. A final report is submitted after the project is completed. These final reports form the basis of the project narratives included in this overview of projects completed in the 2007-2009 biennium.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's ALEA Grant Program invests in volunteer-driven projects that:

- Protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats;
- Enhance sustainable fish and wildlife recreational opportunities;
- Improve public access to the outdoors;
- Collect and disseminate fish and wildlife science; and
- Educate the public about resource conservation.

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School of Forest Resources - UW

Project: Eastern Gray Squirrel Ecology and Interactions with Western Gray Squirrels on Fort Lewis, WA

The western gray squirrel was added to Washington's list of state-threatened species in 1993 when surveys indicated a decline the species' geographical distribution. There remain three main population groups in Washington State, one of which is located on Fort Lewis. The goal of this project is to describe the ecology of the western gray squirrel and its interactions with eastern gray squirrels on Fort Lewis. Eastern gray squirrels have displaced native squirrel species elsewhere and this information is expected to help determine if control of eastern gray squirrels is needed.

Volunteers trapped and collared squirrels, documented squirrel locations using radio telemetry techniques and distributed and monitored hair-snags in an effort to determine habitat selection and distribution of squirrels. This study is ongoing.



WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL Photo by Danielle Reese

Grant Award	\$29,206
Funds Spent.....	\$29,206
Volunteer Hours	4,123
Value of Volunteer Hours*	\$61,845

*The value of volunteer hours is calculated by multiplying total volunteer hours by the standard \$15/hour volunteer labor rate.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Mar Don Resort

Project: Potholes Reservoir Net Pen O&M Fish Production

Mar Don Resort raised and released approximately 300,000 catchable rainbow trout, over the course of the two-year grant period, to enhance public fishing in Potholes Reservoir. WDFW provided juvenile fish, which were fed, monitored and released by volunteers. The cooperator was able to maintain existing net pen nets so funds allotted for a new net were unused. These funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award.....	\$3,800
Funds Spent.....	\$2,068
Volunteer Hours.....	340
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$5,100

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.

Kittitas County Field and Stream Club

Project: Volunteers Implementing Priorities of the Colockum Elk Herd Plan

This project supported the Kittitas County Big Game Management Roundtable in coordinating huntmaster/masterhunter activities related to management of the Colockum elk herd in Unit 3911. Elk can cause significant damage to private property and the work under this grant resulted in a significant decrease in landowner complaints related to depredating elk. Newsletters were produced in order to educate hunters and the non-hunting public about the management issues surrounding the Colockum elk herd. Online maps of Unit 3911 were created to assist master hunters in identifying the boundaries and properties involved in game damage hunts.

While elk are encouraged to remain on public lands set aside for them, human encroachment on those lands during the winter can cause additional stress on elk at an already stressful time. Vehicle traffic counters were purchased and used in order to assess the level of human encroachment during the winter and high-use times. The resulting information will assist planning efforts to protect the elk herd and its habitat.



Grant Award.....	\$24,170
Funds Spent.....	\$24,165
Volunteer Hours.....	2,387
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$35,807

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats.

Objective 20: Maintain elk populations through the winter and reduce elk damage to private land on or by June 2009.



Inland Northwest Wildlife Council

Project: Spokane County Roadkill Recovery and Disposal Project

The Inland Northwest Wildlife Council (INWC) received an ALEA grant to support their work in recovering wildlife injured or killed by collisions with vehicles in Spokane County. When WDFW Enforcement, the Spokane County Sheriff's Department or other cooperating entities receive notice of a collision resulting in an injured or killed animal, they notify one of eight INWC volunteers responsible for that particular area of Spokane County. That volunteer will euthanize injured animals and clean and deliver salvageable meat to a local charitable organization. Over the one-year grant period volunteers salvaged the meat from 138 deer, 9 moose and 2 elk, providing meals for numerous people in need of assistance.



Grant Award	\$1,755
Funds Spent.....	\$1,684
Volunteer Hours	242
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$3,630

Yacolt Burn Sportsman's Club

Project: Weyerhaeuser Mt. St. Helens Tree Farm/Yacolt Burn

The Yacolt Burn Sportsman's Club facilitated public access onto Weyerhaeuser Company lands in Game Management Unit 568 by opening and closing gates daily during the 2007 and 2008 hunting seasons. In addition to providing access to approximately 35,000 acres, this project has resulted in a significant reduction in vandalism and dumping on these lands during hunting seasons, much of which can be attributed to volunteer presence. The group also conducted several litter clean-ups.



Grant Award.....	\$3,118 (2007); \$6,327 (2008)
Funds Spent.....	\$3,118 (2007); \$6,327 (2008)
Volunteer Hours.....	\$1,757
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$26,355

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal IV: Implement processes that produce sound and professional decisions, cultivate public involvement and build public confidence and agency credibility.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.



Streamkeepers of Clallam County

Project: Streamkeepers Volunteer Monitoring and Reporting

Streamkeepers is a volunteer-based program of Clallam County’s Department of Community Development focused on protecting and restoring salmon habitat by gathering scientific data on the health of Clallam County streams. Volunteers monitored water quality and flow at 40 sites on 19 streams; measured fecal coliform levels at 69 sites on 21 streams; and gathered data on benthic macroinvertebrates at 17 sites on 14 streams. Streamkeepers data has been used for Clean Water Act Listings, Endangered Species Act compliance plans, watershed plans, restoration projects and other programs and plans. Volunteers also perform education and outreach activities.



MONITORING WATER QUALITY ON SALT CREEK



Grant Award	\$16,900
Funds Spent	\$16,900
Volunteer Hours	4,838
Value of Volunteer Hours*	\$86,598

*Some hours valued at a higher rate for activities such as database programming, statistical analysis and equipment troubleshooting and repair.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Project: Morse Creek Riparian/Olympic Discovery Nature Center



VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WITH RENOVATIONS

With financial assistance from an ALEA grant and other partners, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is one step closer to opening the doors to a fully-functional Olympic Discovery Nature Center at Morse Creek. When complete it will offer self-guided interpretive exhibits, guided nature walks, nature-based educational opportunities and more -- tools that will be available to visitors and the local community to foster an appreciation for the natural resources of Morse Creek, the Olympic Peninsula and Washington State.



Grant Award	\$22,620
Funds Spent	\$22,514
Volunteer Hours	323
Value of Volunteer Hours*	\$6,230

*Some hours valued at a higher rate for professional level gardening services.

Project accomplishments over the course of the grant period include:

- Construction of a stormwater filtration pond, which will treat approximately 5 acres of runoff from Highway 101 before the water enters Morse Creek.
- Installation of three interpretive signs focused on native plants, invasive plants and the salmon life cycle.
- Construction of a pergola with a pervious concrete pad.
- Installation of a pathway from the stormwater pond to the building.
- Installation of approximately 1,400 native plants on the property.
- Interior renovations of the main building with the assistance of skilled volunteers.
- The implementation of summer educational programs with the YMCA.



PATH, PERGOLA, PLANTING BEDS AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE INSTALLED

Photo by Anita McMillan

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats.



West Valley School District - Outdoor Learning Center

Project: Connecting Community to Outdoors

The Connecting Community to Outdoors program promotes environmental education with the goal that youth and adults will gain an appreciation for the natural environment and a greater understanding of the need for a sustainable future.

One component of this project involves elementary, middle and high school students learning about environmental science in their classrooms then participating in habitat restoration and data collection activities in the field. An example of this was a project conducted at Latah Creek that connected volunteers, habitat biologists from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and 250 5th grade and 200 8th grade students. Volunteers worked with students to identify and remove noxious weeds then replanted the area with native species. Biologists taught students how they use electro-shocking technology in their job and they identified the types of fish inhabiting Latah Creek. Students also collected data on water quality and benthic macroinvertebrates.

Another component is the Hawk and Owl Outreach Talks (HOOT) program, which promotes interest in birds of prey and educates people of all ages about the ecological role that raptors play. In the past year this program reached over 1,500 people.



Grant Award.....	\$25,013
Funds Spent.....	\$24,903
Volunteer Hours.....	2,288
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$34,320

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Project: Salmonid Population Monitoring in WRIA #1

With the help of six volunteer interns and other local community volunteers, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) monitored salmonid populations by surveying the spawning grounds in selected reaches of 14 different streams throughout Whatcom County. Volunteers were trained and sent into the field with NSEA and WDFW staff to collect data on species, populations, locations, and the timing of salmonid spawning. Surveyors identified live fish, redds and identified and sampled carcasses during 229 stream surveys.



The results of these surveys provide important, reliable data that provides year-to-year consistency for comparison purposes and allows NSEA to assess trends in the salmonid population in WRIA #1. Spawning grounds surveys also provide NSEA with post-project monitoring data for stream reaches where restoration projects are located.

Grant Award	\$15,000
Funds Spent.....	\$15,000
Volunteer Hours	1,654
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$24,810

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Project: Environmental Explorations



STUDENTS CYCLE THROUGH LEARNING STATIONS

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group received one-year grants in 2007 and 2008 to support their Environmental Explorations program. This program is an annual all-day environmental education event involving 7th graders from seven school districts in the Hood Canal Watershed. This event



features hands-on, in-the-field education where students go through various learning stations. Some of this years stations included Wildwise, Nature Mapping, Art in Nature, Seattle Bug Safari, Bat Talks, Exciting Estuaries, Carbon Footprint and Marine Bird Migration. There

Grant Award.....	\$8,150 (2007); \$7,550 (2008)
Funds Spent.....	\$8,150 (2007); \$7,550 (2008)
Volunteer Hours.....	1,659
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$29,002

*Some hours valued at a higher rate for professional level services.

were also other stations run by high school students who educated the 7th graders on such topics as products of the forest, scat and tracks, incredible edibles, animal calls and sounds and more. Students also participated in bivalve dissections and water quality testing.



A REHABILITATED BALD EAGLE IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE



SKULL AND SCAT IDENTIFICATION

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats



Columbia Basin Walleye Club

Project: Moses Lake Net Pen O&M Fish Production

Columbia Basin Walleye Club volunteers raised and released 50,000 rainbow trout to enhance public fishing in Moses Lake. Grant funds were used for net pen maintenance. Volunteers were involved with all aspects of fish production including receiving, feeding, monitoring and releasing the fish.



Grant Award\$2,000
 Funds Spent.....\$1,796
 Volunteer Hours300
 Value of Volunteer Hours\$4,500

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
 Goal II: Ensure sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.

Friends of Puget Prairies

Project: Glacial Heritage Enhancement Project

The goal of this project was to support healthy populations of rare and declining wildlife species at the Glacial Habitat Preserve through habitat enhancement and public education efforts.

- Fir trees that were shading Oregon White Oak were removed.
- Several acres of Scotch Broom were removed.
- Native forbs and grasses were planted to provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.

Friends of Puget Prairies also coordinated Prairie Appreciation Day, an annual event where the public is invited to come to the area and learn about the flora and fauna native to the area.



Grant Award.....\$12,381
 Funds Spent.....\$12,381
 Volunteer Hours.....1,200
 Value of Volunteer Hours.....\$18,000

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
 Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Lincoln County Conservation District Project: Audubon Lake Trail Cover

Trails to bird blinds on Reardan’s Audubon Lake had provided no cover for visitors trying to access the blinds and birds would be scared away. To fix this, the Lincoln County Conservation District, along with WDFW staff and volunteers planted native trees and shrubs along two trails to the bird blinds. Also, two kiosks were installed to provide information about the lake’s history, wildlife, trails and future projects.



PLANTING NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

Grant Award	\$7,834
Funds Spent	\$7,834
Volunteer Hours	48
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$720

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Opportunities for Social and Economic Benefit.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Project: Morgan Creek Fish Passage Improvement

The goal of this project was to remove a barrier to fish passage on a private driveway crossing Morgan Creek. An undersized culvert was removed and a flatcar bridge was installed. Volunteers planted the project area. Salmon and trout now have access to over two miles of additional habitat for spawning and rearing.



Grant Award	\$7,300
Funds Spent	\$7,300
Volunteer Hours	60
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$900

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Willapa Harbor Gun Club Project: Youth Handicap Access

The Willapa Harbor Gun Club received an ALEA grant to improve the safety and function of their facility for handicapped citizens, youth and the local community.

They upgraded areas of their shooting range, including making it ADA accessible. Wheel chair ramps were installed and their restroom was remodeled for easier access and use by persons with disabilities.

ALEA funds also provided for maintenance equipment, a new trap thrower and archery range and lighting improvements. Costs were below expectations so some grant funds were unused and recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award.....	\$20,500
Funds Spent.....	\$17,666
Volunteer Hours.....	810
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$12,150

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers Project: Nutrient Enhancement Project

The Clark-Skamania Flyfishers place surplus salmon carcasses obtained from hatcheries back into their local watershed to provide marine derived nutrients to local streams and rivers. These nutrients benefit aquatic vegetation, salmon and many other species.

Volunteers distributed approximately 50,000 salmon carcasses in the East Fork Lewis River and tributaries. An ALEA grant provided funds for the purchase of a carcass trailer which made the transport of large numbers of carcasses easier and more cost efficient.



Grant Award.....	\$7,500
Funds Spent.....	\$7,500
Volunteer Hours.....	299
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$4,485

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Project: Junior Stream Stewards

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group's (SFEG) Junior Stream Stewards program educates middle school students about salmon and their habitat and provides opportunities for them to participate in habitat enhancement and related projects in their local watershed. SFEG originally planned to involve 300 students in the program, but by stretching their funds through enhanced partnerships and program streamlining, they ended up reaching 500.



Students contributed 250 hours of volunteer service in a variety of ways:

- Designing and posting signs along Lorenzan Creek to let people know it's a salmon-bearing stream.
- Developing posters and multimedia presentations based on what they learned and displaying them at the North Cascades National Park visitor center and the Concrete Library.
- Planting approximately 450 native plants along three salmon-bearing streams in Skagit County.



STUDYING SALMON FRY

Grant Award.....\$6,550
 Funds Spent.....\$6,550
 Volunteer Hours.....668
 Value of Volunteer Hours.....\$10,200

Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team Project: COASST Volunteer Network 07-08

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a citizen science program of the University of Washington focused on studying beach-cast carcasses of marine birds as environmental indicators. COASST volunteers operate in all coastal counties in the state. Data gathered by the COASST team has been used to alert natural resource managers about unusual bird die-off events, provide information for status reports on Washington species of concern and more.



With over 200 volunteers covering 165 beaches, COASST needed to create a more connected and informed network of volunteers. With ALEA funding they were able to:

- Educate volunteers about seabirds, their habitat and related conservation issues by publishing and distributing an annual report, bird bio profiles and *COASSTLine*, a quarterly newsletter.
- Bring together COASST volunteers, COASST staff and the public at lectures and events.

Grant Award.....\$15,400 (2008); \$11,035 (2009)
 Funds Spent.....\$14,755 (2008); \$10,491 (2009)
 Volunteer Hours.....5,000
 Value of Volunteer Hours.....\$75,000

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Project: Grays River Large Woody Debris Complexing

With an ALEA grant, the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group was able to purchase the tools, equipment and materials needed to fasten together 13 engineered logjams for installation in the Grays River. These logjams will create the habitat complexity (pools, riffles, cover) needed by juveniles and adults of several salmon species. Additionally, they will reduce erosion along 550 feet of streambank.



LOGJAMS CREATE CRITICAL HABITAT NEEDED BY SALMON



INSTALLING LARGE WOODY DEBRIS



Grant Award	\$6,069
Funds Spent	\$6,069
Volunteer Hours	1,628
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$24,420

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Hawkwatch International

Project: Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Project

Hawkwatch International received a two-year ALEA grant to support their ongoing efforts to monitor long-term trends in the abundance and distribution of migratory diurnal raptors at Chelan Ridge during the 2007 and 2008 seasons. Volunteers observed, counted and trapped and banded raptors. They also conducted on and off-site outreach activities with schools, community groups and the general public.

Total raptor counts recorded at the site in 2007 and 2008 were near average; however, various trends were noted for certain species including a new record high count of Cooper's Hawks in 2007. The trapping and banding program was productive with trapping totals in both years among the highest to date.



Grant Award	\$18,770
Funds Spent.....	\$18,770
Volunteer Hours	3,269
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$49,035



ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RAPTORS

The long term monitoring data gathered from this project has been used to represent raptor population trends for the Pacific Northwest in a new book titled *State of North America's Birds of Prey*, which represents the first continental-scale assessment of population trends for migratory raptors based on migration counts.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



David Clouse

Project: Western Bluebird Monitoring and Banding

The goal of this project is to enhance western bluebird populations by constructing, maintaining and monitoring nest boxes on Fort Lewis. Over 200 nest boxes are monitored and data collected has and will continue to provide information on population trends. The success of this program over the years has allowed translocation of some birds to the San Juan Islands. If the program continues to be successful it's likely that birds could be provided for translocation to other suitable habitats both in and out of state.



Grant Award\$970
 Funds Spent.....\$970
 Volunteer Hours504
 Value of Volunteer Hours\$7,560

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

Promoters of Wildlife and Environmental Resources (POWER)

Project: Lake Shore Cleanup - Banks Lake

Annually on Earth Day, volunteers organized by POWER target public recreation areas on Banks Lake for litter pickup. In 2009, approximately eight miles of shoreline was cleaned of garbage that filled five large dumpsters and a trailer. ALEA grant funds were used to purchase fuel for the garbage-hauling pontoon boats and pay dump fees. A large share of expenses were covered by partnering organizations so not all grant funds were used.



Grant Award.....\$800
 Funds Spent.....\$470
 Volunteer Hours..... 396
 Value of Volunteer Hours.....\$5,940

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats.



Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program

Project: Cle Elum River Salmon Viewing Trail Interpretive Signs

A previous ALEA grant provided financial support for the Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program's construction of an ADA accessible trail and seating area. This provided public access for viewing spawning Chinook salmon on the Cle Elum River.



Grant Award.....	\$8,285
Funds Spent.....	\$6,852
Volunteer Hours.....	650
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$9,750

With another ALEA grant the group developed and installed interpretive signage to enhance visitors' educational experience. Sign content includes information about the trail, the salmon life-cycle and the surrounding ecosystem. The signs also provide information about preserving salmon habitat.



NEW SIGNAGE AT THE CLE ELUM RIVER SALMON VIEWING TRAIL

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Eyes in the Woods

Project: Biological Data Check Stations

Eyes in the Woods received an ALEA grant to support their continuing work manning check stations during the hunting season. This project promotes positive interaction with hunters and collects valuable biological data on harvested deer, elk, bear and cougar.

Volunteers operated a total of 20 deer check stations and 12 elk check stations, collecting biological data from hundreds of deer, elk, cougar and bear combined.



VAIL CHECKSTATION

Grant funds were used to purchase a trailer, equipment, supplies, training materials, safety gear and to reimburse volunteer mileage.



Grant Award.....	\$46,992
Funds Spent.....	\$46,992
Volunteer Hours.....	1,718
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$25,770

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Northwest Watershed Institute Project: Tarboo Creek Floodplain Coho Salmon Habitat Restoration II

The Northwest Watershed Institute received an ALEA grant to continue their long-term watershed-wide restoration program for Tarboo Creek, which involves restoring three miles of in-channel habitat and 120 acres of wetlands on the 200-acre Tarboo floodplain. Volunteers conducted tree plantings along the Tarboo Creek riparian zone. In total, 180 volunteers planted over 1,800 native trees along 1,000 feet of Tarboo Creek. This will help shade the stream channel and stabilize the stream banks. Over 200 habitat logs were also installed. Some were placed as standing snags, some along the floodplain, but most were installed along 1,600 feet of mainstem Tarboo Creek.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



PLANTING NATIVE TREES ON THE TARBOO CREEK FLOODPLAIN



Grant Award	\$39,429
Funds Spent.....	\$39,429
Volunteer Hours	473
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$7,095

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Project: Students For Salmon

The Students for Salmon program continued working towards its goal of restoring and maintaining sustainable wild salmon runs in Whatcom County through education. This program focuses on students from all seven Whatcom County school districts and instills students with knowledge, awareness and appreciation of their watershed. Many students have taken what they've learned and put it to work by helping to restore degraded streams in their own communities. Program improvements were implemented in the areas of curriculum availability for educators, teacher evaluations and tracking of student comprehension. New classroom and field trip activities were also added.



Grant Award	\$20,000
Funds Spent.....	\$20,000
Volunteer Hours	4,038
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$60,570



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THEIR WATERSHED

- 2,489 students participated in the program over the course of the two year grant period.
- 37,187 student-hours were spent learning about and practicing watershed ecology and stewardship.
- 1,860 hours were logged by students who removed invasive species and planted 796 trees along the riparian zones of eight degraded streams.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations their supporting habitats



Tapteal Greenway Association

Project: Tapteal Greenway Amon Creek Water Quality and Riparian Habitat Survey

The Tapteal Greenway Association, using volunteers and students, conducted riparian surveys and collected baseline water quality and stream parameter data at Amon Creek, a salmon-bearing stream in a rapidly growing urban area of Richland. This evaluation of Amon Creek is intended to provide information that will encourage others to protect and preserve it for future generations of fish, wildlife and people.



Sixty school children participated in the project, learning about Amon Creek's habitat, flora and fauna and how to measure pH, temperature, flow rate, dissolved oxygen, macroinvertebrates and more. It's hoped that such experiences will encourage local youth to become stewards and advocates of the Amon Basin and its rich diversity of habitat and wildlife.



STUDENTS COLLECT MACROINVERTEBRATES FOR STUDY

Grant Award.....	\$4,835
Funds Spent.....	\$4,723
Volunteer Hours.....	475
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$7,125

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Project: WRIA 27 & 28 Nutrient Enhancement Project

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG) received an ALEA grant to support their nutrient enhancement program in the Kalama, Lewis and Washougal watersheds. This program involves placing salmon carcasses, which provide nutrients essential for healthy and productive aquatic ecosystems, directly into rivers and streams where there is a lack of returning wild salmon. Along with volunteers and other partners LCFEG placed approximately 54,650 carcasses.



VOLUNTEERS TOSSING SALMON CARCASSES

Grant funds were used for maintenance of the freezer containers used for storing carcasses, to purchase totes to haul the carcasses, for a variety of needed materials and supplies and to reimburse volunteer mileage.

Grant Award.....	\$29,486
Funds Spent.....	\$29,486
Volunteer Hours.....	5,443
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$81,645

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Seattle Audubon

Project: Seattle Audubon's Teen Volunteer Bird Banding & Outreach Project

This project trained 20 Seattle area teen volunteers to properly handle and band birds and provide outreach to the public on bird awareness and the importance of the Seward Park winter bird banding study.



Teens were trained at a week-long banding camp where they learned skills such as mist-net set-up, bird extraction and bird banding.

They also learned how to determine bird sex and age.

Then, over the course of the school year, they participated in monthly bird banding demonstrations at Seward Park as part of a study that looks at how urban habitats support wintering birds. During the demonstrations, they also provided bird awareness outreach to approximately 700 visitors who came to the demonstrations.



BIRD BANDING

Grant Award	\$10,000
Funds Spent.....	\$9,735
Volunteer Hours	633
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$9,495

Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team

Project: Skagit River Interpretive Center

The Skagit River Interpretive Center provides watchable wildlife information and education programs focusing on the local area's wintering bald eagle populations, migrating and spawning salmon and the upper Skagit watershed.



An ALEA grant provided funding for interpretive materials, books and folding chairs. These materials helped enhance the interpretive experience for the thousands of people who visited the center.

Grant Award	\$5,101
Funds Spent.....	\$1,980
Volunteer Hours.....	89
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$1,335



NEW FOLDING CHAIRS FOR THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Due to protracted organizational changes, the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team was unable to use all grant funding, the remainder of which was recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Woodland Park Zoo - Frank Slavens

Project: Western Pond Turtle Project

This project began in 1990, when the western pond turtle population numbered only 150 in Washington State. A collaborate effort involving the Woodland Park Zoo, the Oregon Zoo, federal and state agencies and dedicated volunteers has resulted in steady increases of the turtle population, which currently numbers approximately 1,600.

Turtles are captured in the field and females are outfitted with transmitters. Subsequent surveys identify nests where hatchlings are captured for head-starting at either the Woodland Park Zoo or the Oregon Zoo. At the appropriate time, these turtles are released back into the wild.



REARING HATCHLINGS AT THE OREGON PARK ZOO

An ALEA grant enabled the purchase of turtle traps and transmitters and provided for volunteer mileage reimbursement. Some grant funds were unneeded because the group received a donation that covered most of the transmitters required for that year’s field work. These unused funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award	\$20,000
Funds Spent	\$11,085
Volunteer Hours	1,905
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$28,575

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

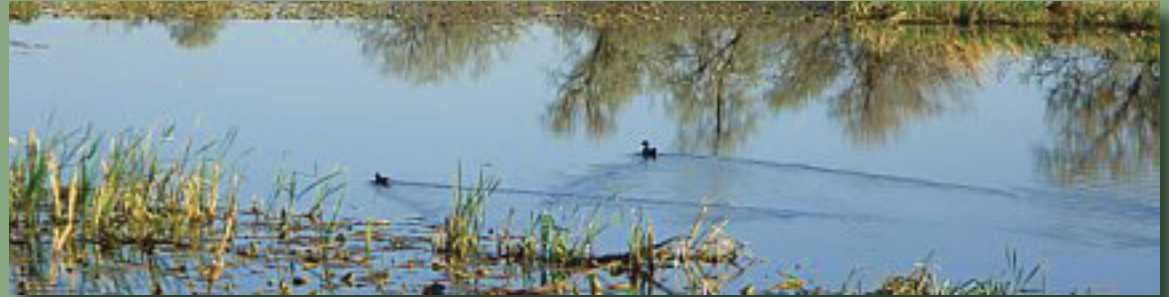
- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision making.



Richard Gies

Project: Marshbird Monitoring and Surveillance on Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Areas

The goal of this project was to establish a baseline of marshbird abundance for species such as the American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot - secretive marshbird species that can't be adequately surveyed by traditional point-count methods.



First, wetland vegetation that was identified in air photos was verified in the field. Then 51 survey stations were established. Digital photographs were taken at each station and archived for future monitoring. Each station was surveyed three times between May 1 and June 15 of 2008 and 2009. All five targeted species were detected in all three wildlife area units, though not at each survey station.



Project work will continue for the next two years and is expected to provide more data useful to researchers, wildlife area managers and watchable wildlife enthusiasts.

Grant Award	\$2,476
Funds Spent.....	\$2,236
Volunteer Hours	376
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$5,640

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Eyes in the Woods Project: Streamwatch

Streamwatch is an Eyes in the Woods program that involves partnering with sport fishing clubs to reduce natural resources abuses. Clubs that join the Streamwatch program encourage members to take Eyes in the Woods' Crime Observation Reporting Training (CORT - See page 36) to learn the proper way to report potential violators.



Grant Award	\$4,390
Funds Spent.....	\$4,389
Volunteer Hours	284
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$4,260

Eyes in the Woods also developed signage encouraging people to not litter and to respect their resources. Participating clubs "adopt" specific waters where this signage is posted with their club's logo. While this is a fairly new program, Eyes in the Woods has established partnerships with many fishing organizations including the Kalama Sportsmen's Club, the Cascade Muskie Association, the Elma Game Club, the Olympia Chapter of Trout Unlimited and more.



07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

John Danielson Project: Lynx Status in Okanogan County after the Tripod Complex Fire

Lynx are listed as a state and federally endangered species. The Tripod fire burned 175,000 acres in 2006, much of it lynx habitat. Therefore, it was important that the population status and distribution of lynx was determined.

Volunteers assisted biologists with lynx tracking, covering an estimated 6,820 miles by snowmobile. They were also involved with daily live trap monitoring (during winter) and processing captured lynx. Eight different lynx were captured and fitted with GPS collars. The collars will enable biologists to track lynx movement and gain a better understanding of their population status and use of habitat.



Grant Award	\$48,697
Funds Spent.....	\$46,647
Volunteer Hours.....	1,368
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$20,520

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

Project: Entiat Stillwaters Riparian Habitat Restoration

The goal of this project was to reintroduce native vegetation on properties that had been previously used for agriculture purposes. These properties, which border salmonid spawning habitat, were dominated by exotic grasses and devoid of native shrub and tree species.



Grant Award	\$7,136
Funds Spent	\$7,101
Volunteer Hours	100
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$1,500

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and project volunteers removed noxious weeds, planted 1,125 native trees and shrubs and distributed 121 pounds of native grass/forb seed. They also installed 180 feet of fencing to control vehicle access to the area while the vegetation gets established.



VOLUNTEERS PLANT NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Noosack Salmon Enhancement Association

Project: Fishtrap Creek Salmonid Habitat Restoration Project

The Noosack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) partnered with Lynden Christian High School to participate in habitat restoration projects on Fishtrap Creek.



With an ALEA grant, NSEA was able to purchase the tools, materials and equipment needed to place 12 large woody debris structures in the creek and conduct riparian planting along 2,000 linear feet of streambank. This work will benefit fish and wildlife by providing shade and cover, reducing bank erosion and filtering runoff from nearby residential and agricultural lands.

Grant Award	\$26,965
Funds Spent	\$26,965
Volunteer Hours	597
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$8,955



LARGE WOODY DEBRIS INSTALLED IN FISHTRAP CREEK

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Island County Beach Watchers - WSU

Project: Juvenile Salmon Usage of Cornet Bay

Data was needed about juvenile salmon usage of the Cornet Bay nearshore to inform decision makers prior to implementing planned enhancement projects.

The Island County Beach Watchers, working collaboratively with other organizations used small beach seines to sample for salmon in shallow intertidal areas. They identified and counted the catch by species and documented fish size and habitat parameters at each site.

Over 6,850 fish from 22 different species were captured from March through June, with juvenile salmon representing approximately 74% of the total catch.



Grant Award	\$6,926
Funds Spent	\$6,668
Volunteer Hours	339
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$5,085

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force

Project: Cooperative Restoration and Awareness

The goals of this project were to educate the public about local watershed issues, promote stewardship and engage volunteers in salmon habitat restoration projects.

Project accomplishments include:

- Planting 1,975 plants along the Snoqualmie River;
- Planting 400 native trees and shrubs along the Pilchuck River;
- Conducting stream surveys to identify knotweed infestation on South Fork Stilliguamish River tributaries;
- Planting 500 plants and removing invasive species at Union Slough on Earth Day;
- Potting 2,300 native bare root plants for the 2009/2010 planting season;
- Organizing tours of the Stilliguamish Fish Hatchery for students; and
- Bringing SSFETF's Watershed Education Program to eleven classrooms.



Grant Award	\$20,000
Funds Spent	\$20,000
Volunteer Hours	1,344
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$20,160

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

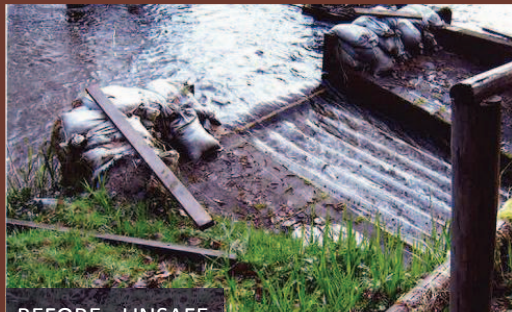
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Kitsap Poggie Club

Project: Concrete Modifications to Existing Salmon Screens

The Kitsap Poggie Club received an ALEA grant to modify the concrete area around the salmon screens at the Gorst Creek rearing facility. The concrete wall was raised and a ladder with handrail was installed. This modification will better control the water flowing into the raceways where 100,000 Chinook salmon are held. It will also make it safer for personnel who clean the screens.



BEFORE - UNSAFE AND INEFFICIENT



AFTER - SAFER FOR PERSONNEL, BETTER FOR SALMON



Grant Award.....	\$1,597
Funds Spent.....	\$1,597
Volunteer Hours.....	190
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$2,850

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Southwest Washington Land Access Coalition

Project: Private Timberland Access/Elk Population Control

A joint effort between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Weyerhaeuser Company, Eyes in the Woods and the Southwest Washington Land Access Coalition has provided hunter access to private lands that had previously been off-limits. This project required a large volunteer commitment primarily for monitoring gates, many in active logging areas.

An ALEA grant provided funds for radios and signage, which increased communication capabilities and the overall level of safety for all involved. Funds were also used for volunteer mileage reimbursement. While this project logged a significant amount of volunteer hours, the number of volunteers involved in the project were less than projected so a portion of funds allotted to volunteer mileage was unused. These funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award.....	\$16,304 (2008); \$18,105 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$15,152 (2008); \$12,149 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	2,265
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$33,975

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.



Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Project: Marblemount Hatchery Outreach



The Skagit River is a popular watchable wildlife area, especially in the winter when bald eagles come in great numbers to feast on returning salmon. The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) and other partners take advantage of this opportunity by educating visitors about salmon, their habitat, the Marblemount Hatchery and its role in wild salmon recovery.

Grant Award.....	\$9,992
Funds Spent.....	\$9,992
Volunteer Hours.....	621
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$9,315



TRAINING VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD HATCHERY TOURS

Outreach is conducted by volunteers trained to lead tours of the hatchery. Comments from visitors show that they were impressed with the facilities, excited to see the salmon and appreciate the efforts of the trained tour guides. Also, armed with a fish tank stocked with juvenile salmon as part of their educational display, SFEG takes salmon outreach on the road to festivals and events throughout Skagit County.



LIVE COHO SALMON ARE A HIGHLIGHT OF SFEG'S EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

- 1,240 visitors took a tour of the hatchery, led by 19 trained volunteers.
- 5,000 self-guided hatchery tour brochures were developed and printed.
- 10,000 salmon i.d. cards were developed and printed.
- Interpretive signs were produced.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Long Live the Kings

Project: Hood Canal Steelhead Project - LLTK/Lilliwaup Hatchery Component

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project is a collaborative effort focused on researching and restoring wild steelhead in Hood Canal. The study compares the abundance, genetic and demographic characteristics of Hood Canal Steelhead between three streams being supplemented with hatchery-reared steelhead, four control streams and the Hamma Hamma River, which has undergone successful supplementation, to determine the impacts and effectiveness of hatchery supplementation as a tool for steelhead recovery. The ultimate goal is to recover three Hood Canal steelhead populations in the Duckabush, Dewatto and Skokomish Rivers, to the point that they are self-sustaining. An ALEA grant supported Long Live the Kings' contribution to this project.

In early 2009, the first group of two-year old smolts reared at the Lilliwaup Hatchery were released into the Duckabush and Dewatto Rivers. Remaining broodyear 2007 fish will be reared at the hatchery for another two years until their release as four-year-old adults. In all, over 23,000 steelhead were reared at the Lilliwaup Hatchery.



COLLECTING STEELHEAD EGGS

Long Live the Kings also operated smolt traps on the Duckabush and Hamma Hamma Rivers; sampled juvenile steelhead to collect baseline genetic, age and size data and counted redds to estimate steelhead abundance in the supplemented streams, control streams and the Hamma Hamma River. In addition, Long Live the Kings provided coordination and communication support for the project.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

GrantAward	\$51,588
Funds Spent.....	\$51,342
Volunteer Hours	722
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$10,830



Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Associaton Project: Terrell Creek Water Quality Monitoring

With the help of three interns and a number of local volunteers, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) collected water quality samples and stream flow measurements from seven locations in Terrell Creek on a weekly basis. Fecal coliform samples were also collected monthly.

NSEA undertook this project to determine if Terrell Creek is a significant source of the pollution in Birch Bay, which is a popular area for recreational and commercial shellfish harvest.

The data collected showed that during the summer months the water temperature of Terrell Creek routinely exceeds the upper thresholds for juvenile salmonids. Also, throughout the year fecal coliform levels were well above Department of Ecology (DOE) limits.

This information prompted NSEA to submit Terrell Creek to the DOE for potential listing as an impaired stream. Now that problems with Terrell Creek quality are being documented, action can be taken to restore it's water quality.



Grant Award.....	\$12,000
Funds Spent.....	\$12,000
Volunteer Hours.....	810
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$12,150

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

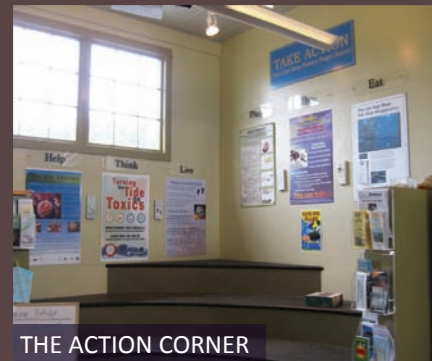
Port Townsend Marine Science Center Project: Marine Exhibit Citizen Action Corner

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center received an ALEA grant to create a changable display designed to improve the ability to educate the visiting public about the need for conservation and restoration in Puget Sound.

A previously unused area of the Marine Exhibit is now used as a display space for posters and brochures that prompt people to take action. The action corner features six issues at a time, which are updated periodically.



Grant funds were used to purchase display materials and signage and for printing posters and brochures.



Grant Award.....	\$1,500
Funds Spent.....	\$1,500
Volunteer Hours.....	104
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$1,560

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Chris Loggers

Project: Tiger and Long-toed Salamanders in NE Washington

To get a better idea of the population distribution and habitats occupied by tiger and long-toed salamanders, Chris Loggers was assisted through the efforts of students from elementary school to the community college level. Chris works with teachers at the schools by providing posters and information about these salamanders and students are encouraged to report sightings. Once sightings are confirmed, the student who reported the sighting receives a bookmark. Chris reports that participants in the project are excited to learn about the salamanders and contribute to a scientific survey.

- 25 new tiger salamander sightings were confirmed.
- 18 new long-toed salamander sightings were confirmed.

Information about confirmed sightings is sent to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for their databases.



Grant Award.....	\$885
Funds Spent.....	\$885
Volunteer Hours.....	162
Value of Volunteer Hours..	\$2,430

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to

Mel White

Project: Western Washington Cougar Science Cooperative

Mel White received an ALEA grant to continue his work supporting cougar researchers by providing cougar capture assistance using trained hounds. Once a cougar is treed and immobilized, researchers are able to collect biological data and fit the animal with a radio or GPS collar. These collars allow researchers to track a cougar's movements and better understand cougar behavior. Over the two-year grant period over 25 cougars were treed and fitted with collars.



Grant Award	\$15,706
Funds Spent.....	\$15,685
Volunteer Hours.....	1200
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$18,000

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps Project: Oak Creek Tours

The Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps received an ALEA grant to support their outreach efforts at the Oak Creek Visitor Center. Volunteers operate the center, answering questions and providing interpretive information about area wildlife to the thousands of visitors annually. Members also conduct truck tours to allow the public to view elk close up during the elk feeding season.



Accomplishing this requires the efforts of numerous volunteers who dedicate many hours and come from all over the area. Therefore, a significant portion of grant funds were used for volunteer mileage reimbursement. Funds were also used for interpretive materials. Some budgeted items were later deemed to not be a priority so associated funds were unused and recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.

Grant Award.....	\$41,375
Funds Spent.....	\$35,915
Volunteer Hours.....	8,929
Value of Volunteer Hours...	\$133,935



OAK CREEK VOLUNTEERS AT THEIR MONTHLY MEETING



A BULL ELK WHILE BEING WEIGHED

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Eyes in the Woods

Project: Crime Observation Reporting Training

The Eyes in the Woods (EIW) Crime Observation Reporting Training (CORT) program is a non-confrontational expert witness program designed to train citizens in methods to accurately identify, document and report potential natural resource crimes. Standardized reporting methods are critical in ensuring that WDFW Enforcement officers receive reports in a manner consistent with their needs.

Participation in CORT trainings had been increasing steadily since 2004, and rose dramatically in 2008, when WDFW began requiring the CORT class for Master Hunter certification. In the 2007-2009 biennium 108 CORT classes were conducted certifying 2,216 citizens. New demand for classes meant new costs for materials and equipment to conduct the trainings and an ALEA grant provided funding to help meet that demand.



CORT TRAINING IN ELLENSBURG WITH 93 PARTICIPANTS



Grant Award.....	\$18,189 (2008); \$2,820 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$18,189 (2008); \$2,813 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	8,030
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$120,450

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Richland Rod and Gun Club

Project: Youth Education and Wood Duck Program Enhancement

The goal of this project is to provide youth and future outdoor enthusiasts with a better understanding of wildlife conservation principles while actively participating in improving nesting habitat for wood ducks.



Youth assisted in building 38 new nest boxes at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show. The nest boxes were installed along the Snake River and on the Barker Ranch. An additional 18 boxes were relocated from trees and pole-mounted.



Grant Award.....	\$1,378
Funds Spent.....	\$1,365
Volunteer Hours.....	304
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$4,560

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Dallas Likens

Project: Hound Science Cadre

The Hound-Science Cadre is a group of volunteers that assist researchers with cougar captures and related field work. Through the collection of biological data and use of GPS collars to track cougar movement and behavior, this project has and will continue to contribute to improved cougar management practices.

In addition, the Cadre frequently makes contact with the public (during cougar captures and when giving public presentations), using the opportunity to educate them about the project and cougar related issues.

- 25 cougars were captured and (most) fitted with GPS collars.
- The "track to tree" ratio, the percentage of treed cougars to tracks started, was 86%.
- The "jump rate", the percentage of cougars that jumped from the tree after sedation was reduced to 28%.
- 26 positive encounters with the public were documented, three were landowners who were able to witness a cougar capture on their own property.



Grant Award.....	\$44,165
Funds Spent.....	\$44,110
Volunteer Hours.....	2,729
Value of Volunteer Hours....	\$40,935

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Master Hunter Advisory Group

Project: Advanced Hunter Education/Master Hunter Development Program

The Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG) received an ALEA grant to support their efforts in working with WDFW, Master Hunters, and the general public to research, advise WDFW on and implement improvements to the Master Hunter Program.

A few key accomplishments of the MHAG include:

- Assisting in creating an enhanced Master Hunter (MH) website to provide more information about the program and reduce the number of calls from the public with Master Hunter related questions.
- Developing the content for an updated MH exam that was used starting in 2009.
- Adding CORT training (see page 36) as a requirement for Master Hunter certification.
- Creating a partnership with the Big Game Management Roundtable to address issues of mutual concern.
- Holding meetings across the state with prospective Master Hunters to explain and promote the program.

The majority of grant funds were used to reimburse MHAG members costs to travel to advisory group meetings. Some funds were unused because travel costs were slightly overestimated. Those unused funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award	\$19,661
Funds Spent.....	\$18,182
Volunteer Hours	2,000
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$30,000

William Anderson

Project: Snag It and Bag It - Clearing our Streams of Monofilament

Monofilament fishing line littering streams and stream banks is not only unsightly, but can trap, injure, and kill fish and wildlife.

William Anderson recognized this problem and decided to do something to reduce this environmental hazard. With an ALEA grant Mr. Anderson designed and produced 150



small mesh bags that anglers can use to place their discarded line or line left behind by others. The bags easily clip to a beltloop, fishing vest or backpack. The bags were provided to sporting goods stores in Whatcom and Skagit counties for free distribution.

Grant Award	\$1,876
Funds Spent.....	\$1,655
Volunteer Hours.....	20
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$300

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



The Whale Museum Project: Soundwatch Stewards



The goal of the Soundwatch Stewards program is to reduce vessel disturbance to orcas and other marine wildlife through boater education. The Soundwatch Stewards conduct on-the-water outreach - teaching boaters about best viewing practices during the peak of whale watching season. Outreach also takes place out of the water at conferences, workshops, community events and the Whale Museum. They created new materials to educate boaters

about a recently adopted law prohibiting vessel operators from coming within 100 yards of a killer whale while in Washington waters.

In addition to educating boaters, the Soundwatch Stewards also monitor whale watching activity to ensure that boaters are compliant with related guidelines and laws. Perceived violations are recorded on incident reports and forwarded to the appropriate authorities.



SOUNDWATCH PROVIDING ON-THE-WATER EDUCATION



A WHALE WATCHING VESSEL MAINTAINING A PROPER DISTANCE FROM ORCAS

Yet another component of this project is data collection including: 1) counts of vessels near wildlife; 2) commercial and private vessel compliance with viewing guidelines; 3) wildlife identification, location, direction of travel; 4) vessel contact information and more. Analysis of the data enables them to identify whale watching trends, track compliance and determine the effectiveness of the program.

Grant Award.....	\$10,000 (2008); \$10,000 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$9,997 (2008); \$9,999 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	2,265
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$33,975

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Project: Summer Chum Salmon Recovery

This ongoing project contributes to the recovery of summer chum along the Strait of Juan de Fuca focusing on restoration programs on Jimmycomelately, Salmon, Snow and Chimmacum Creeks.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) volunteers, in some cases working with WDFW staff, conducted broodstocking activities on Jimmycomelately Creek and monitored returning adults in three streams. Activities consisted of in-stream spawning counts, trap monitoring and otolith, scale and DNA sample collection. Samples are processed in a lab to determine fish origin and age.



RETURNING CHUM



NOSC PROJECT VOLUNTEERS



Grant Award	\$41,837
Funds Spent	\$41,669
Volunteer Hours.....	3,075
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$46,125

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Chehalis Basin Education Consortium Educational Service District 113 Project: Chehalis Basin Outreach and Action Project

The Chehalis Basin Education Consortium partnered with organizations and schools to engage and educate youth on the importance of healthy riparian zones and estuaries to salmon, migrating birds and other wildlife.

More than 1,000 students participated in field studies at the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and the Chehalis River Discovery Trail.



Students also participated in the removal of noxious weeds and planting of native shrubs and trees at several locations in the Chehalis River Basin. They learned that their efforts will result in increased shading for rivers and provide food and cover for a diversity of wildlife.

Grant Award.....	\$14,385
Funds Spent.....	\$13,500
Volunteer Hours.....	1,350
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$20,250

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Project: Community Riparian Restoration

The Community Riparian Restoration project utilized community volunteers to restore riparian habitat along salmon streams in the Skagit Watershed. During the grant period, the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) held 18 planting parties. Volunteers planted 5,794 plants at 11 sites. There were an additional 10 planting events involving students from elementary to high school level. Volunteers also potted 5,300 plants for SFEG's nursery and helped maintain it.

ALEA grant funds were used to purchase signage, a plant cart, landscape fabric, fertilizer and irrigation parts. As a result of ALEA support SFEG was able to increase the size of their nursery from 7,000 to 10,000 plants.



Grant Award.....	\$9,109
Funds Spent.....	\$9,109
Volunteer Hours.....	1,029
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$15,435

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



University of Idaho

Project: North Cascades Mountain Goat Research Project: Fine-Scale Habitat Selection and Movement Modeling

The University of Idaho received an ALEA grant to support field data collection efforts to identify and survey backcountry recreational use and the abundance and quality of available forage for mountain goats in select areas in the North Cascades. This project required extensive travel into remote areas over difficult terrain, typical mountain goat habitat, for several days at a time.

Combined with data downloaded from GPS collared mountain goats, the end product will be fine-scale habitat maps and models that can be used to inform decision making with regard to mountain goat management and recreational access into areas of mountain goat habitat.



Grant Award	\$9,984
Funds Spent	\$9,677
Volunteer Hours	2,880
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$43,200

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition

Project: Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project

The Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring project is a joint effort between the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition, the Wilderness Awareness School and Conservation Northwest to educate, train and utilize citizens to collect baseline data on wildlife presence and movement along I-90. The specific area of emphasis is a fifteen mile section of I-90 that is proposed for an upgrade including wildlife bridges (crossing structures). Additionally, efforts are made to record the presence of rare and sensitive species away from I-90 that may benefit from the wildlife bridges.

Wildlife presence was recorded by using wildlife cameras placed at strategic locations in the project area. Volunteers conducted snow-track surveys to document wildlife movement.

Grant funds were used to purchase wildlife cameras, GPS units and other essential supplies.



Grant Award	\$7,500
Funds Spent	\$7,500
Volunteer Hours	3,534
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$53,010

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Project: Lower Columbia Engineered Log Jams

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group's (LCFEG) goal for this project was to increase the quantity and quality of salmon habitat by constructing and placing engineered log jams in Grays, Cowlitz, Lewis and Washougal River watersheds. These log jams create pools, accumulate spawning gravel, enhance side channels and provide cover and refuge for salmonids.

This project was supported in part with an ALEA grant, which provided the funding necessary for LCFEG to purchase the heavy duty tools and supplies needed to construct 18 log jams.



AN ENGINEERED LOGJAM ON THE WASHOUGAL RIVER



Grant Award	\$15,650
Funds Spent	\$15,650
Volunteer Hours	4,417
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$66,255

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Tri-State Steelheaders

Project: Touchet River Instream/Riparian Habitat Education

The Tri-State Steelheaders received an ALEA grant to provide outdoor environmental education to Cub Scout groups and Waitsburg area school students at a site on the Touchet River. Many individuals invested their time to assist with this effort including state and federal employees, teachers, Scout leaders and other volunteers.



Grant Award	\$6,452
Funds Spent	\$5,832
Volunteer Hours	454
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$6,810

Six educational events were held where youth participated in several hands-on activities, learning about the river's salmonids and macroinvertebrates, water quality, habitat, flora and fauna and more.

Grant funds were used for water quality measuring equipment, hip waders, miscellaneous project supplies and volunteer mileage. Some equipment purchases did cost less than anticipated so some funds were unused and recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



STUDENTS STUDYING MACROINVERTEBRATES

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

North Cascades Institute

Project: Eagle Watchers Volunteer Stewardship Program

The North Cascades Institute and volunteers provided in-the-field education to 8,766 visitors who came to view the seasonal congregation of bald eagles feasting on salmon on the Skagit River. Visitors learned about the connection between salmon, the eagles and the Skagit River. They were also educated on proper eagle watching etiquette. In addition, this program provided several viewing sites off of Highway 20 to help maintain a safe flow of traffic. Grant funds were used to purchase volunteer training materials, binoculars, spotting scopes and viewing canopies. Changes in staffing and program priorities resulted in some funds going unused. These funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award.....	\$6,180 (2008); \$5,060 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$6,139 (2008); \$1,527 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	2,217
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$33,255

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Chuck Smith/S&H Manufactured Homes Project: Cougar Population Estimation in Okanogan County 07-09

Knowledge of cougar population demographics is essential for refining WDFW's cougar management program. Without reliable data, setting sustainable harvest rates with any degree of accuracy would not be possible. In fact, before this project began, estimates of the cougar population were too high, resulting in overharvest.

This ongoing volunteer research project has helped provide that critical information. To do so, experienced volunteer houndsmen, working with WDFW staff, track and capture cougars. Cougars are fitted with radio collars so their movements can be monitored over time. On average about 8-10 cougars are captured and collared each season.

Grant funds were used for snowmobile maintenance, radio collars and volunteer mileage reimbursement.



(left to right) VOLUNTEERS STEVE REYNAULD, CHUCK SMITH AND WDFW COUGAR/BEAR SPECIALIST RICH BEAUSOLEIL WITH A CAPTURED AND COLLARED COUGAR

Grant Award	\$42,252
Funds Spent	\$42,252
Volunteer Hours	2,134
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$32,010

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Chris Loggers

Project: Dragonfly/Damselfly and High-Elevation Butterfly Surveys in Northeast Washington

Chris Loggers and volunteers conducted surveys of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies in areas of Northeast Washington with the goal of better understanding their distribution and abundance.

For odonates (the order comprising dragonflies and damselflies), surveys were conducted 27 times at 20 sites resulting in the capture and recording of 47 species, 12 of which were county records.



WHITE-FACED MEADOWHAWK

©Tom Munson

For butterflies, surveys were conducted 24 times at 20 locations resulting in the capture and recording of more than 56 species, ten of which were county records (these are numbers likely to increase as specimen identification continues).

Not only has this project gathered valuable information needed to better understand the distribution and abundance of butterflies and odonates in the area, it has shown that a great variety of species exist in Northeast Washington and new discoveries can still be made.



Grant Award	\$1,993
Funds Spent	\$1,993
Volunteer Hours	355
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$5,325

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

- Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.
- Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

Project: Satsop Springs

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force (CBFTF) received an ALEA grant to support their artificial fish production activities at the Satsop Springs Hatchery.

Each year of the biennium, CBFTF and volunteers reared and released hundreds of thousands of Chinook, coho and chum salmon to benefit sport and commercial fisheries.

They also reared and released approximately 4,500 jumbo sized rainbow trout averaging 7 pounds each. The Elma Game Club, Grays Harbor Poggie Club and the Montesano Moose Lodge assisted in transporting these fish to area lakes to enhance local fishing.



Grant Award	\$68,500
Funds Spent	\$68,500
Volunteer Hours	5,131
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$76,965

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:
Goal II: Ensure sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.

Puget Creek Restoration Society

Project: Boardwalk at Puget Creek

An area of Puget Creek, home to a variety of fish and wildlife, has suffered from heavy foot traffic, which has caused substantial damage to vegetation and the streambank. In response the Puget Creek Restoration Society (PCRS) developed a project to replant the area and construct a raised boardwalk to prevent future damage.



Grant Award	\$14,000
Funds Spent	\$13,999
Volunteer Hours.....	2,962
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$44,430

Construction of the boardwalk will begin once all necessary permits are secured; however, with an ALEA Grant, PCRS was able to replant two acres of wetland habitat and associated buffer with a variety of native evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and ground cover. Prior to planting, volunteers cleared the area of non-native invasive vegetation.

Once the boardwalk is complete the public will be able to enjoy access to Puget Creek while the habitat is protected for fish and wildlife.



07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



KBH Archers/Talmadge Dobbs

Project: Black-Tailed Deer Survival and Reproduction (Continuation)

KBH Archers teamed up with the Makah Tribe and WDFW to continue their study of black-tailed deer to determine population status and rate of growth. Of special interest to researchers is finding out the effect that hair-loss syndrome is having on black-tailed deer populations.

KBH Archers volunteers assisted with the capturing and collaring of 67 fawns in 2008 and 62 in 2009. After collaring, the fawns were monitored for survival. The results of this study will assist State and Tribal management of black-tailed deer.

Grant funds were used to purchase 50 radio collars and provide for volunteer mileage reimbursement and per diem. Some grant funds were unused as a less than anticipated number of volunteers were needed. Those funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award	\$23,121
Funds Spent.....	\$18,211
Volunteer Hours	1,000
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$15,000

Lake Roosevelt Development Association

Project: Lake Roosevelt Volunteer Net Pen Project

The objective of this long-running project is to enhance the rainbow trout fishery at Banks Lake. About 40 volunteers help operate and maintain 45 net pens.

ALEA funding was used to add two net pens to their program. This will reduce overcrowding and result in larger and healthier fish.

During the grant period, 756,609 rainbow trout were reared and released.



Grant Award	\$5,497
Funds Spent.....	\$5,497
Volunteer Hours.....	178
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$2,670

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Opportunities for Social and Economic Benefit.



Tapteal Greenway Association Project: Tapteal Bend Restoration 07-09

In 2005, the Tapteal Greenway Association (TGA) acquired 5.5 acres of floodplain and riparian habitat at Tapteal Bend, on the Yakima River, with the goal of enhancing and protecting the area. Phase I of this project involved shoring up collapsing river banks, removing invasive vegetation and planting native plants.



REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE TREES



Grant Award.....	\$4,441
Funds Spent.....	\$4,441
Volunteer Hours.....	556
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$8,340

Phase II, which was supported by an ALEA grant, was focused on removing (non-native) Russian olive trees that were prevalent in the area. Removal of these trees has allowed TGA volunteers to plant native trees and begin building a trail system. Future goals include offering

interpretive nature walks and developing an environmental education park.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Kittitas Environmental and Education Network Project: Helen McCabe State Park Upland Shrub-Steppe Restoration Project

The Kittitas Environmental and Education Network (KEEN) received an ALEA grant to implement the first part of a larger project to develop Helen McCabe State Park to provide interpretive trails, fishing platforms and a natural history center. This phase involved upland shrub-steppe habitat restoration.



ONE OF 150 PONDEROSA PINE TREES PLANTED

In the fall of 2008, weeds were sprayed, burned and removed in preparation for spring planting. Volunteers then seeded the area with native grasses and planted 150 Ponderosa pine trees. After one year the ponderosa pine survival rate was 85%.



Grant Award.....	\$5,100
Funds Spent.....	\$4,752
Volunteer Hours.....	143
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$2,145

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Goal II: Ensure Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Opportunities for Social and Economic Benefit.



Mike Braaten

Project: Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area - Upper Bear Creek Forage Enhancement Project

Mike Braaten and volunteers he recruited took on this project with the goals of increasing the forage producing acreage for the Mt. St. Helens elk herd and improving riparian vegetation along Bear Creek.

The site of the elk forage project component was an old river deposit with little vegetation over its 20 acres. The area was first harrowed to break up moss and loosen the soil. Then lime was distributed, followed by seeding done by a broadcast spreader mounted on an all-terrain vehicle. Finally, fertilizer was used to enhance forage growth. It was applied lightly to prevent it from getting to groundwater. Increased forage should improve elk winter survival, which has been a concern.

Volunteers also planted hundreds of trees and shrubs along Bear Creek to provide shade and cover for fish.

The project area is located below the Weyerhaeuser Forest Learning Center so it may provide better watchable wildlife opportunities as well.



Grant Award.....	\$12,827 (2008); \$7,075 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$12,804 (2008); \$6,784 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	740
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$11,100

SEEDING THE AREA FOR FUTURE ELK FORAGE



07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association Project: WRIA 1 Salmonid Habitat Restoration

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) received an ALEA grant to support thirteen salmonid habitat restoration projects within WRIA 1. These areas have been negatively impacted by past land use practices and were in need of restoration.

With the grant, NSEA was able to purchase the tools and materials and rent the equipment needed to complete the projects. Project highlights include:

- Modification of approximately 2,000 feet of stream channel.
- Placement of 30 Large Woody Debris structures.
- Riparian planting of approximately 5,000 linear feet of streambank.

These results could not have been possible without the efforts of over 500 community volunteers that NSEA partnered with.



Future generations of fish and wildlife will benefit from these restoration projects. Their habitat will offer more shade and cover, less bank erosion and a greater ability to filter inputs from residential and agricultural lands.

Grant Award	\$49,770
Funds Spent	\$49,770
Volunteer Hours	2,400
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$36,000

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute Project: Klickitat River Restoration - Final Phase

The Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute (CGEI) conducted the last phase of a three-year project focused on restoration of a highly degraded piece of fish and wildlife habitat adjacent to the mouth of the Klickitat River.



Volunteers, AmeriCorps members and CGEI staff removed non-native plants including tarweed, bullthistle, Himalayan blackberry, false indigo and tansy. Native plantings included willow, black cottonwood, wildflowers, grasses and a variety of aquatic plants.

Grant Award	\$9,500
Funds Spent	\$8,154
Volunteer Hours	594
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$8,910

CGEI also coordinated the design and production of interpretive signage.

This project was completed underbudget and the remaining funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



PLANTING AQUATIC VEGETATION

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Tahoma School District

Project: Project Cougars and Teaching

Over 200 Tahoma School District 7th grade science students participated in research, field and classroom activities as part of the Project Cougars and Teaching program.

Students learned field investigation techniques in the classroom then worked in the field at Taylor Mountain conducting on-site investigations on cougar prey abundance and habitat. They also monitored (remotely) a cougar kill site and a wildlife corridor in the Cedar River Watershed.

Grant funds were used to purchase GPS collars used to monitor cougar movement. The scope of the project changed slightly so some items originally budgeted were not needed. Those unused funds were recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



Grant Award	\$28,882
Funds Spent.....	\$20,518
Volunteer Hours	300
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$4,500

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objective Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

Skagit Land Trust

Project: Skagit Land Trust Wildlife Education Project

The Skagit Land Trust received an ALEA grant to design and install interpretive signage at two locations in Skagit County.



The first was installed at Green Road Marsh Conservation Area and explains the natural and human history of the area and includes information about a wetland restoration project. The second sign was installed in a highly visible and heavily visited area east of Rockport along State Route 20. This sign explains the importance of conservation easements to protect bald eagle habitat.

Grant Award	\$4,021
Funds Spent.....	\$3,964
Volunteer Hours.....	.87
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$1,305



NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGN AT GREEN ROAD MARSH

These signs provide the visiting public an opportunity to learn more about the natural history and wildlife conservation priorities of Skagit County.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association Project: WRIA 1 Fish Passage Project

In 2005, the WRIA 1 Fish Passage Barrier Inventory Project was completed. The purpose was to identify and assess all artificial fish passage barriers that exist in WRIA 1.

With an ALEA grant, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association took the next step. Working with landowners and volunteers they completed eight projects that opened up over 14 miles of upstream salmonid habitat. Fish passage projects were done at Tenmile Creek, Toss Creek, Arnold Slough, Fourmile Creek, Dakota Creek, a Dakota Creek Tributary (2 projects) and an unnamed North Fork Nooksack River tributary.



DAKOTA CREEK BEFORE...



...AND AFTER



Grant Award	\$61,694
Funds Spent.....	\$61,694
Volunteer Hours	1,000
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$15,000

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.



Peter Ritson Ph. D.

Project: Community-Based Monitoring of Pond-Breeding Amphibians in Clark County

This goal of this multi-year citizen-science project is to survey and monitor pond-breeding amphibians and provide that data to managers so they can make informed decisions with regard to species conservation. This project encourages stewardship by engaging local volunteers to conduct amphibian egg mass surveys at several locations in Clark County.

From January 2008, through April 2009, a total of 53 sites were surveyed. Targeted species included the Western toad, Northern red-

legged frog, North-western salamander, Long-toed salamander and the Pacific chorus frog. While

four of the target species appeared to be fairly prevalent where suitable habitat existed, no Western toads were identified. This species has experienced significant reduction of its historical range and is listed as a State Candidate Species by WDFW.

This project is ongoing and the survey protocols are currently being reviewed to ensure that the best available scientific data is collected.



Grant Award.....	\$5,603 (2008); \$3,998 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$3,917 (2008); \$3,998 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	656
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$9,840



VOLUNTEERS SEARCH FOR EGG MASSES

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Island View Elementary School

Project: Island View Elementary Environmental Education Project

In 2006, Island View Elementary School students planted over 250 native plants to transform a drainage swale into functioning wildlife habitat.

In 2007, the school received an ALEA grant to build two viewing platforms to function as an outdoor environmental learning stations for students. One platform is close to the water level so students can observe aquatic life up close and collect water quality samples. The other is a raised platform where students can observe and study the flora and fauna of the area.

A local contractor volunteered to construct the platforms and their materials costs were under budget, so some funds were un used and recycled back into the ALEA Grant Program.



STUDENTS TRY OUT THEIR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED WILDLIFE VIEWING PLATFORMS



Grant Award.....	\$4,543
Funds Spent.....	\$3,573
Volunteer Hours.....	82
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$1,230

Coulee City Chamber of Commerce

Project: Trout Net Pens

The Coulee City Chamber of Commerce received an ALEA grant to support their project to rear and release rainbow trout into Banks Lake to enhance public fishing. Over the course of the grant period, 196,000 trout were released from their net pens.

WDFW provided the fish and volunteers provided the effort to feed and monitor the fish prior to release.

Grant funds were used to purchase solar-powered fish feeders and miscellaneous materials and supplies needed to maintain the net pens.



Grant Award.....	\$3,050
Funds Spent.....	\$2,804
Volunteer Hours*.....	600
Value of Volunteer Hours*.....	\$3,000

*Estimates - pending confirmation

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Opportunities for Social and Economic Benefit.



Grass Roots Garbage Gang

Project: Long Beach Peninsula Grass Roots Garbage Cleanup

The Grass Roots Garbage Gang received an ALEA grant to support their clean up efforts on the Long Beach Peninsula.



The group educated the public on the importance of keeping the Long Beach Peninsula clean for the benefit of people and wildlife. They also organized three cleanup parties each year of the two-year grant period, utilizing over 1,000 volunteers per year to remove over 22 tons of trash.



Grant Award	\$8,000
Funds Spent	\$7,909
Volunteer Hours	6,500
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$97,500

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
 Goal I: Achieve healthy, diverse and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and their supporting habitats.

William Henkel

Project: Thetis (Baker) Lake Triploid Rainbow Plant

The goal of this project is to determine if triploid Kamloops rainbow trout are more effective than Mt. Whitney rainbow trout in controlling overproducing and stunted Eastern brook trout populations.

Test fish were marked and stocked into Thetis Lake. Thorp Lake and Little Joe Lake were used as control lakes. After hook and line sampling of Thetis Lake in 2008, none of the marked fish were caught and there has been no noticeable shift in the size of brook trout in the lake. Sampling was conducted in 2009 also, but those results have not become available yet.



Grant Award	\$584
Funds Spent	\$490
Volunteer Hours	20
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$300

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:
 Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Western Washington University

Project: Mountain Goat Conservation and Restoration in Washington: A Genetic Approach



PHOTO BY JIM CUMMINS FROM WDFW GRAPHICS LIBRARY

Western Washington University (WWU) received an ALEA grant to collect and analyze genetic samples from mountain goats in the Cascades.

The objectives were to use the genetic samples to assess the genetic structure and health of the state's mountain goat herds, evaluate the impact of past mountain goat relocations and to identify important landscape features that influence the dispersal of mountain goats.

Based on their analysis of genetic samples of mountain goats in the Cascades who were descendants of animals relocated from the Olympics in the 1980s,

WWU believes that translocation is a viable management tool for improving the health of mountain goat populations.

Researchers found that the I-90 corridor is the most important factor in mountain goat population structure in the state. It impedes mountain goat dispersal and thus gene flow, so there is significant genetic differentiation between populations in the north and south Cascades. When viewed as separate population groups (north and south), each group shows lower genetic diversity and higher inbreeding than populations inhabiting core habitat in Alberta and British Columbia.

The results of this project are expected to guide mountain goat management decisions for years to come.



Grant Award	\$24,088
Funds Spent	\$23,345
Volunteer Hours	4,273
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$64,095

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal V: Promote development and responsible use of sound, objective science to inform decision-making.



Eyes in the Woods

Project: Property Watch/Land Access Program

This primary purpose of this pilot program was to provide public access to private timberlands in WDFW Regions 5 and 6 for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. This project was part of a collaborative effort involving WDFW, the Southwest Washington Land Access Coalition, the Weyerhaeuser Company, Eyes in the Woods (EIW) and other volunteer organizations. The results of this effort proved successful as the public gained weekend access to approximately 305,000 acres. Eyes in the Woods volunteers participated in project planning, coordination of volunteers and supplies, physically monitoring access gates and pinch points on logging roads, data management and training. Another part of this program involves cleaning up the areas that had been opened for access. Volunteers participated in three clean-up projects removing several tons of garbage.

The Property Watch/Land Access program area of focus evolved to include assisting WDFW with conservation closures and reducing WDFW public access site abuses. At the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, EIW helped establish a remote photo enforced (camera) system and signage to deter the public from entering closed sections of the wildlife area. The closures were necessary to allow a period of time for big game to recover from the winter without being stressed by human activity. The WDFW Enforcement Program conducted emphasis patrols and cited several violators with the assistance of the camera system.



Grant Award.....	\$24,401 (2008); \$15,913 (2009)
Funds Spent.....	\$24,401 (2008); \$15,758 (2009)
Volunteer Hours.....	1,904
Value of Volunteer Hours.....	\$28,560

07-09 WDFW Strategic Goals and Objectives Met:

Goal II: Ensure Sustainable fish and wildlife opportunities for social and economic benefit.



Thanks to the grantees and the thousands of volunteers who logged tens of thousands of hours in making these projects possible.

