

# ALEA



AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT  
VOLUNTEER COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM  
2011-2013 REPORT

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

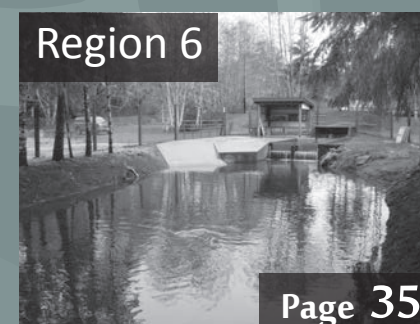
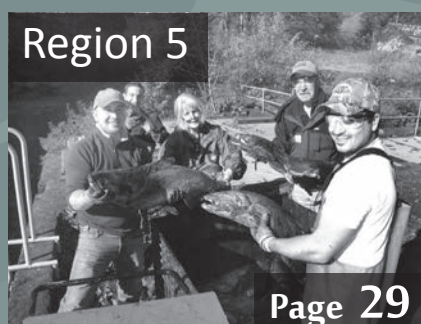
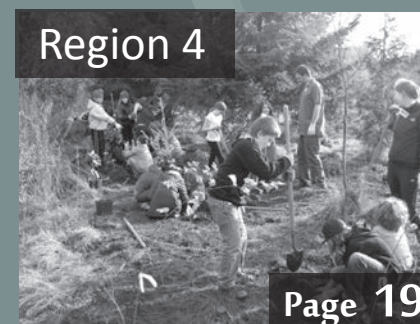
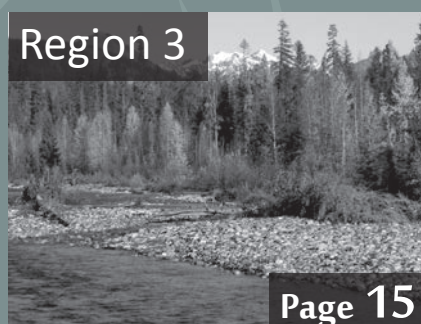
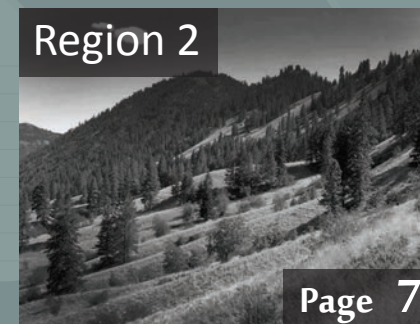
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# PROJECTS



Cover photo: submitted courtesy of Sound Salmon Solutions. All other photos provided by the grantees or WDFW unless otherwise indicated.

## INTRODUCTION








Since 1984, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program has provided funding to hundreds of individuals and organizations that have implemented fish and wildlife projects throughout Washington State that:

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

## GRANT SELECTION

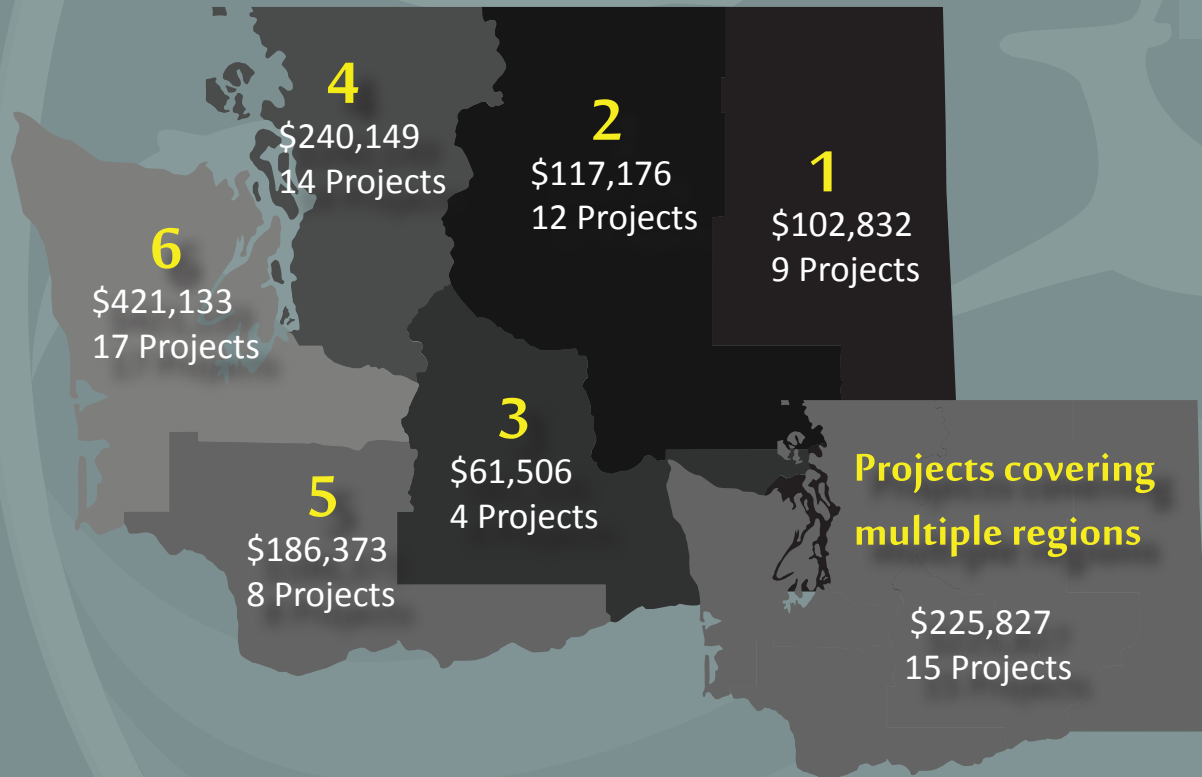
Proposals are accepted annually. They are reviewed and scored, following established criteria, by a panel of 18 WDFW employees representing all Regions and Programs. A ranked list of projects recommended for funding is then brought to WDFW's Director and the Executive Management Team for approval.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

-  Consistency with WDFW Goals and Objectives
-  Public Benefit
-  Volunteer Effort
-  Overall Costs/Benefits
-  Applicant Qualifications
-  Measurable Objectives
-  Focus on Priority Habitats and Species

## REGIONS

WDFW is headquartered in Olympia and operates six regional offices throughout the state. Many ALEA funded projects are closely aligned with regional priorities for species and habitat conservation and recovery.



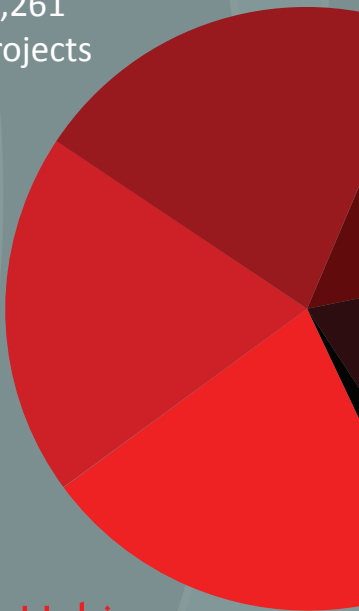
## PROJECT TYPES

funds standard project types, other considered. Our diverse portfolio

### Research/ Citizen Science

\$264,261  
23 Projects

**Other\***  
\$234,305  
18 Projects



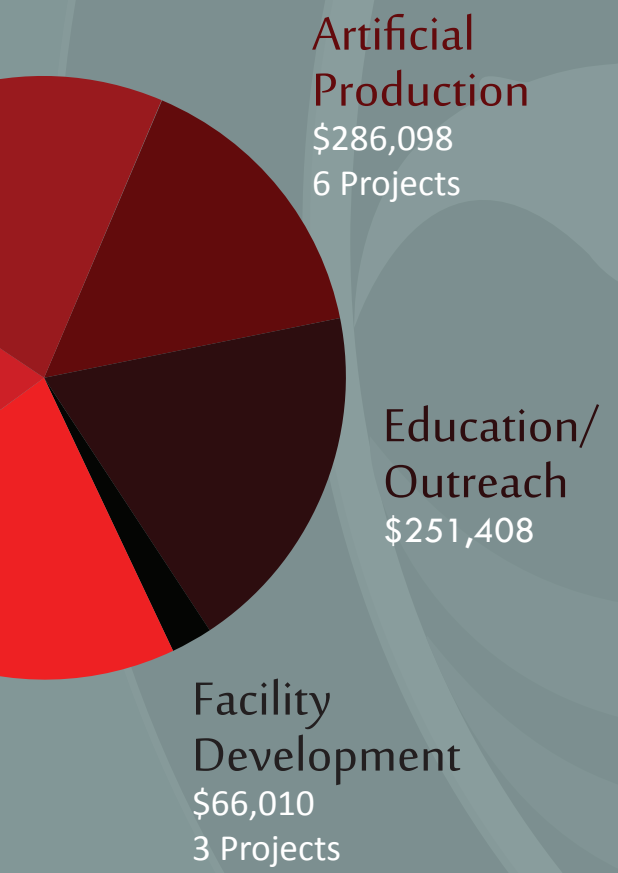
**Habitat**  
\$252,913  
15 Projects

\*"Other" projects may be combinations of project types or projects that don't fit into these major categories.

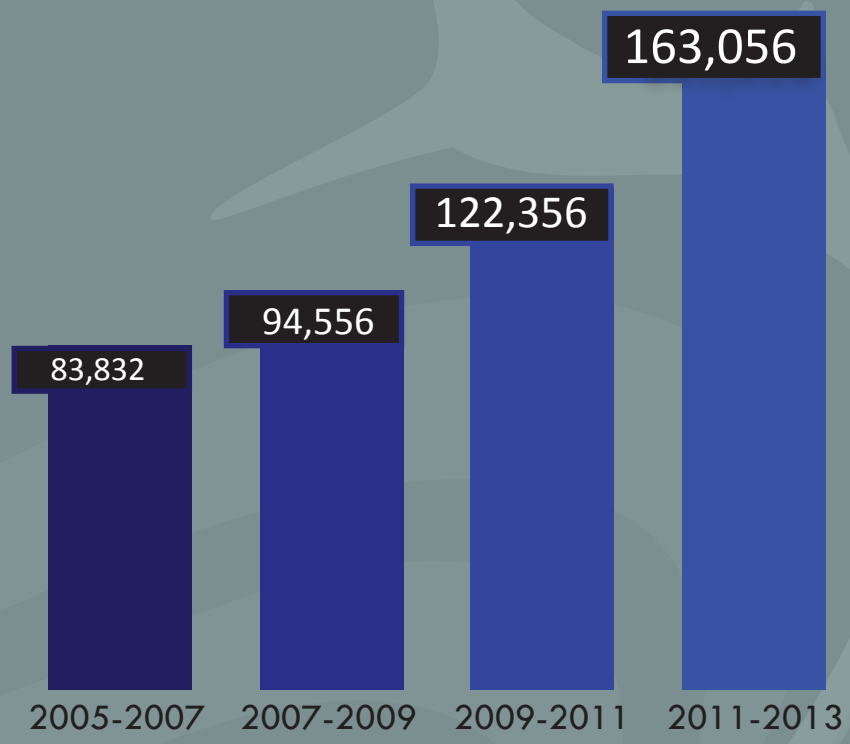
ALEA grants fund a variety of fish and wildlife projects. While ALEA projects meeting the criteria are of grants are categorized below.

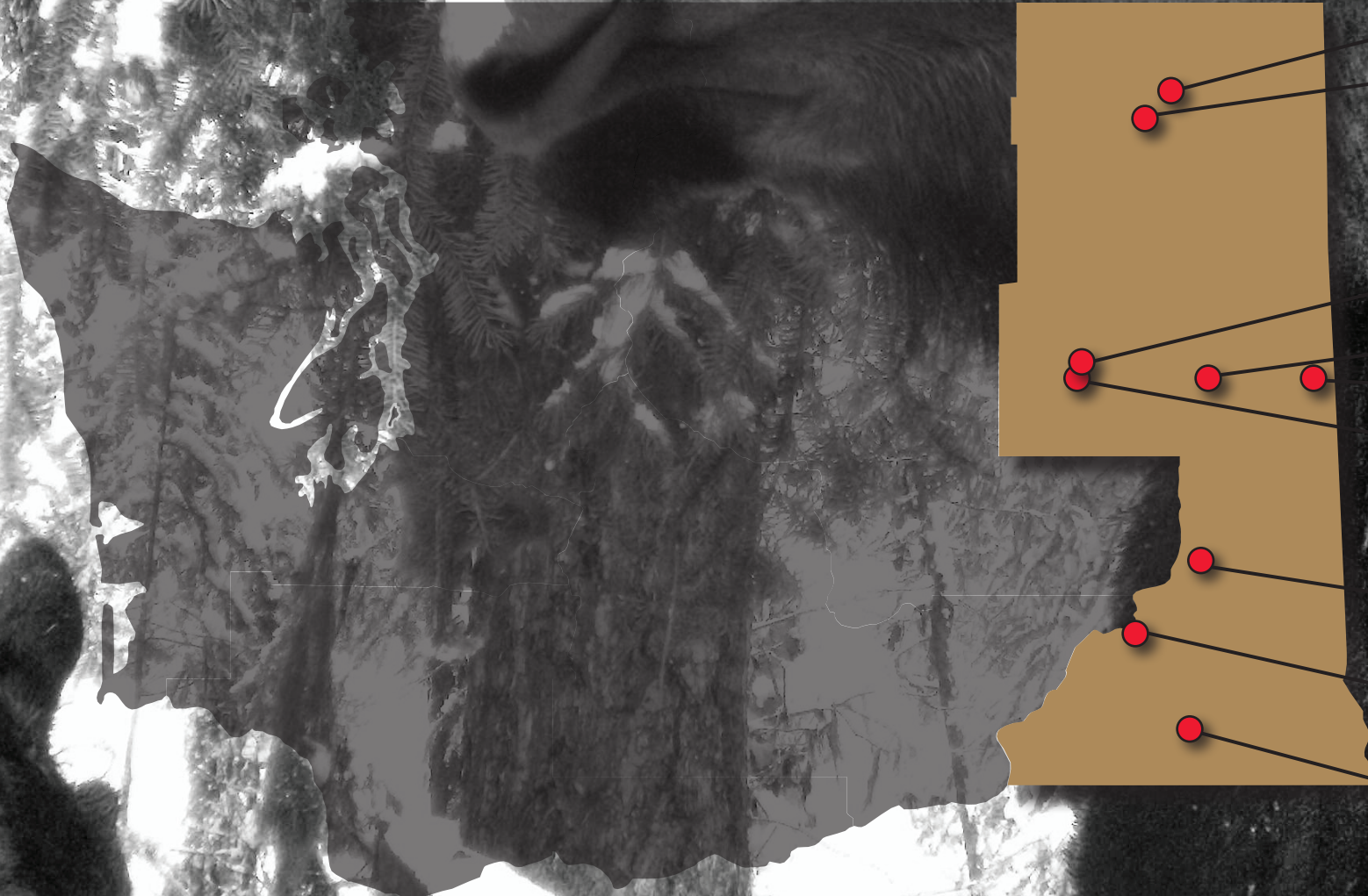
# VOLUNTEER EFFORT

Volunteer effort is a cornerstone of the ALEA Grant Program. Project proposals are scored (in part) by how much sponsors engage volunteers to conduct their project activities.



## Volunteer Hours





# REGION 1 PROJECTS

Mobile Electronic Natural History Library pg. 4

Wolverine Hair Snares pg. 6

Adopt-a-Lek and Other Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Recovery Support pg. 6

Audubon Lake Trail pg. 3

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Fence Removal for Protection of Grouse pg. 5

Palouse Audubon Society Eastern Washington Ferruginous Hawk Habitat Restoration Project pg. 5

Lyons Ferry Disabled Walkway and Fishing Pad pg. 6

Hound Science Cadre pg. 4

# REGION 1 PROJECTS

**Project:** Saltese Flats and Raptor Citizen Science Project  
**Sponsor:** West Valley Outdoor Learning Center  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$10,105

The Saltese Flats and Raptor Citizen Science Project goal is to create future wildlife enthusiasts by introducing them to unique ecosystems in their community. Outdoor Learning Center staff, volunteers and teachers taught students wildlife identification and data collection protocols through classroom instruction and field trips to Saltese Flats study sites.

600 K-5 student participants  
 3,654 volunteer hours  
 45 field trips to study sites



**Project:** Audubon Lake Trail  
**Sponsor:** Lincoln County Conservation District  
**Type:** Facility Development project  
**Cost:** \$3,600

This project improved public access to bird viewing blinds on an ADA accessible trail at Rearden's Lake Audubon. Vegetation overgrowing the trail was removed and weed-barrier fabric and river rock were installed to prevent regrowth and reduce future trail maintenance costs.



**BEFORE** ←



**AFTER** →

900 ft. of trail improved  
 129 volunteer hours



# REGION 1 PROJECTS

**Project:** Hound Science Cadre  
**Sponsor:** Richard Eich  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$18,729

Volunteers provided cougar capture services to WDFW Wildlife Program staff during two winter field seasons to assist cougar population research efforts in the Blue Mountains.



19 cougars captured and collared  
700 volunteer hours

**Project:** Mobile Electronic Natural History Library  
**Sponsor:** Chris Loggers  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$716

The sponsor loaded tablet computers with electronic field guides and programs to record and store data to support education and research related projects such as wolverine monitoring, pre- and post-harvest timber monitoring and butterfly, dragonfly and damselfly surveys.

These tablets have been integrated into the Stevens County Rural Library District where they will be available for use in the field, at schools and at the library.



2 electronic field guides developed  
40 volunteer hours

# REGION 1 PROJECTS

**Project:** Palouse Audubon Society Eastern Washington Ferruginous Hawk Habitat Restoration Project  
**Sponsor:** Palouse Audubon Society  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$500

Volunteers successfully designed, constructed and installed a hawk nesting platform near the site of a removed snag that had previously provided ferruginous hawk nesting habitat. This project also has the potential to provide watchable wildlife opportunities and encourage other landowners to erect similar platforms.

1 hawk nesting platform installed  
 49 volunteer hours



**Project:** Fence Removal for Protection of Grouse  
**Sponsor:** Lincoln County Conservation District  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$6,250

The Lincoln County Conservation District coordinated removal of fence line at the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area to reduce sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse injury and mortality caused by fence line collisions. Hikers, hunters and bird watchers also benefit from safer and freer movement throughout the area.

6.5 miles of fence removed  
 60 volunteer hours



# REGION 1 PROJECTS

**Project:** Adopt-a-Lek and Other Greater Sage Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Recovery Support  
**Sponsor:** Spokane Audubon Society  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$3,535

Spokane Audubon Society volunteers performed lek surveys, radio tracking, trapping, releasing and grouse monitoring activities to help provide a better estimate of grouse populations and guide future habitat restoration efforts.

- 22 counts of sharp-tailed and sage grouse leks
- 4 presentations on shrub-steppe conservation
- 710 volunteer hours

**Project:** Wolverine Hair Snares  
**Sponsor:** Kettle Falls High School  
**Type:** Other project - Education/Research  
**Cost:** \$358

Students in Kettle Falls High School's Wildlife class, their teacher and volunteers set up and monitored wolverine hair snare stations in the Boulder-Deer Pass area. Their goals were to determine if wolverines travel through the Kettle Crest area and to provide students hands-on experiences in wildlife monitoring. Over a period of 7 months, students checked the stations for hair samples and monitored a wildlife camera covering a snare location.

- 2 wolverine hair snare stations established and monitored
- 45 volunteer hours

**Project:** Lyons Ferry Disabled Walkway and Fishing Pad  
**Sponsor:** Blue Mountain RC&D Council  
**Type:** Facility Development  
**Cost:** \$59,039

A lack of ADA fishing access in the area prompted the Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council and partners to create a walkway and fishing platform for public fishing access on the Snake River at Lyons Ferry Marina.



- 1 10' x 10 fishing platform installed
- 372' walkway installed
- 148 volunteer hours



# REGION 2 PROJECTS

Survey of Native Bees of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area pg. **9**

Carter Mountain and Horse Spring Coulee Wildlife Area Biological Survey and Report pg. **12**

Okanogan Lynx Habitat Research pg. **12**

Scotch Creek Sharp-tailed Grouse Fence Marking pg. **10**

Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area - Campground and Habitat Improvement Project pg. **14**

Cougar Population Estimation and Survival in Okanogan County pg. **13**

North Cascade Western Gray Squirrel Distribution, Ecology and Conservation pg. **13**

Project Fish Pens pg. **9**

Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Research and Education Project pg. **11**

Stream Bank Stabilization and Nesting Cover pg. **10**

Potholes Reservoir Recreational Fishing Enhancement Project pg. **9**



# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** Project Fish Pens  
**Sponsor:** Promoters of Wildlife and Environmental Resources (POWER)  
**Type:** Artificial Production Project  
**Cost:** \$6,186

Volunteers reared and released rainbow trout and kokanee to enhance the public fishery at Banks Lake. They operated and maintained net pens and fed the fish throughout the rearing season.

156,000 rainbow trout reared and released  
 125,000 kokanee reared and released  
 420 volunteer hours



**Project:** Survey of Native Bees of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area  
**Sponsor:** Bob Gillespie  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$328

In an effort to provide a baseline survey of native bees on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, the grantee collected native bees and the plants they were found pollinating for identification and curation. This will add to the existing suite of biological surveys of this wildlife area that inventory wildlife species and their habitats.

40 volunteer hours

**Project:** Potholes Reservoir Recreational Fishing Enhancement Project  
**Sponsor:** Meseberg Family  
**Type:** Artificial Production Project  
**Cost:** \$9,091

Volunteers reared rainbow trout in net pens at Potholes Reservoir. They fed the fish through the winter and spring and released the trout at a catchable size to enhance the local fishery.

100,000 rainbow trout reared and released  
 239 volunteer hours

# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** Scotch Creek Sharp-tailed Grouse Fence Marking  
**Sponsor:** Erica Heinlen  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$2,163

This project involved making and deploying reflective fence markers on barbed wire fence to increase it's visibility and reduce the number of sharp-tailed grouse injuries and mortalities from fence collisions. The markers were installed on fences within one mile of active lek sites in Tunk Valley and the Honey Lake area in Okanogan County

13,500 fence markers created  
4.8 miles of barbed wire fence marked  
61 volunteer hours



**Project:** Stream Bank Stabilization and Nesting Cover  
**Sponsor:** Washington Waterfowl Association  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$14,840

The goal of this project was to install native plants along a portion of the Crab Creek waterway in the Gloyd Seeps Wildlife Area. The plantings will stabilize the streambank and provide nesting cover and a food source for waterfowl, upland game birds and wildlife.

1,620 shrubs planted  
3,300 willow and dogwood cuttings planted  
106 volunteer hours



# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Research and Education Project  
**Sponsor:** Hawkwatch International  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$5,625

1,270 raptors counted  
550 raptors trapped, banded and released  
250 visitors hosted  
2,490 volunteer hours

Hawkwatch International continued their efforts at tracking long-term population trends of migrating raptors at Chelan Ridge, a major North American flyway. Volunteers observed, counted and trapped and banded raptors. The monitoring data gathered from this project has been used to represent raptor population trends for the Pacific Northwest and is shared with a number of agencies and conservation organizations. Additionally, the grantee engaged the visiting public in education about raptor conservation, field science and environmental stewardship.





# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** Carter Mountain and Horse Spring Coulee Wildlife Area Biological Survey and Report  
**Sponsor:** Wenatchee Valley College - Omak  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$1,388

The goal of this project was to collect baseline data on native and non-native plant species inhabiting the Carter Mountain and Horse Springs Coulee Wildlife Area. Volunteers conducted surveys in a variety of habitat types, documenting GPS coordinates of the transects, photographing and identifying plant species and documenting evidence of animal and insect use of the habitats. Data is provided to Sinlahekin Wildlife Area staff.



50 25-meter transects surveyed  
 645 volunteer hours

**Project:** Okanogan Lynx Habitat Research  
**Sponsor:** Washington State University  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$10,663

This project is an ongoing effort to monitor lynx habitat selection in response to wildfires and timber harvests. During the grant period, habitat surveys were conducted for nine GPS collared Canada lynx. Volunteers sampled summer use plots, winter use plots and random plots within each lynx's home range measuring several habitat variables.

1,170 lynx habitat plots sampled  
 2,340 volunteer hours



# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** North Cascade Western Gray Squirrel Distribution, Ecology and Conservation  
**Sponsor:** Pacific Biodiversity Institute  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$2,758

This project deployed non-invasive sampling tubes across the Methow Valley to determine the presence of the state-threatened western gray squirrel. Locations of the sampling tubes were mapped by GPS in order to develop basic range and habitat information on the occurrence of the squirrels in the valley. Tubes were checked and hair samples collected by volunteers, with species confirmed by WDFW experts.

1,439 volunteer hours



**Project:** Cougar Population Estimation and Survival in Okanogan County  
**Sponsor:** Chuck Smith  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$56,813

Multiple volunteers, using their own vehicles and equipment, assisted WDFW Wildlife Program by providing hound-handling services and field expertise in capturing and collaring cougars to assess cougar populations and survival in Okanogan County.



13 cougars captured and collared  
2,308 volunteer hours

# REGION 2 PROJECTS

**Project:** Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area - Campground and Habitat Improvement Project  
**Sponsor:** Okanogan Valley Land Council  
**Type:** Other - Habitat/Facility Development project  
**Cost:** \$7,321

This project succeeded in adding protections at Buzzard Lake and the surrounding wetlands to prevent further damage from off-road vehicles, cattle grazing and unauthorized wildfires. Volunteers removed trash, installed fencing and a gate, fire rings and educational signage.

3,000 feet of fence and one gate installed  
8 fire rings installed  
238 volunteer hours





# REGION 3 PROJECTS

I-90 Wildlife Watch pg. **17**

Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps pg. **18**

Volunteer BGMR Stakeholder Support of the Colockum Elk Herd Plan pg. **17**

# REGION 3 PROJECTS

**Project:** I-90 Wildlife Watch  
**Sponsor:** I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$9,329

This project engaged motorists to report sightings of wildlife and road kill on I-90 between Easton and Hyak. That stretch of highway is the focus of major highway improvements that include wildlife crossings. The reports complement efforts by the Department of Transportation and provide baseline data for mitigation measures. Billboards, radio ads and social media were used to engage the public and maintain awareness of the program to ensure that motorists continue to report.



3 billboard ads designed and displayed

**Project:** Volunteer Big Game Management Roundtable Stakeholder Support of the Colockum Elk Herd Plan  
**Sponsor:** Kittitas County Field & Stream  
**Type:** Education/Outreach Project  
**Cost:** \$19,477

Volunteers worked with landowners, WDFW staff and master hunters to reduce elk damage and damage complaints within the project area. They helped ranchers clean up elk damage and assisted with herding/hazing of elk to prevent further problems. Additionally, volunteers were instrumental in conducting a hunter ethics survey that was completed by nearly 3,000 hunters. This information will help future development of the Master Hunter Program.

2,500 volunteer hours



# REGION 3 PROJECTS

**Project:** Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps  
**Sponsor:** Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$2,758

This project's goal is to enhance the educational and viewing experience for visitors to the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. Volunteers staffed the visitor center throughout the winter months, provided maps and guidance to hunters, operated public tours, organized public events and assisted with cleanup of the wildlife area.

8,470 volunteer hours



# REGION 4

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# PROJECTS



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Snoqualmie Restoration and Stewardship pg. **25**

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** WRIA 1 Community Salmon Habitat Restoration  
**Sponsor:** Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
**Type:** Other - Habitat/Education project  
**Cost:** \$61,948

The over arching goal of this project was to enhance salmonid spawning, rearing and holding habitat on three Nooksack River tributaries and one independent drainage. This was accomplished by rerouting a stream channel out of a railroad ditch, installing large woody debris structures and planting native vegetation. Volunteers played a key role in riparian planting with 256 volunteers attending the 2013 Earth Day planting.



1,900 feet of stream channel rerouted  
 933 volunteer hours  
 4,800 ft. of streambank planted  
 16 large woody debris structures installed

**Project:** Salmonid Population Monitoring  
**Sponsor:** Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$3,457

In coordination with WDFW, the Lummi Nation and Bellingham Technical College, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association conducted spawning grounds surveys on several Nooksack River Basin streams. Surveyors counted the number of live and dead fish by species, the number of redds, and took otolith samples from Chinook. They also measured water turbidity, pH and temperature. This project requires extensive landowner contact to obtain permissions to access creek on private property and NSEA keeps them engaged by sending information about the data collected on their particular creek.



308 total surveys completed on 21 stream reaches  
 3,600 volunteer hours

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Soundwatch Stewards  
**Sponsor:** The Whale Museum  
**Type:** Other - Education/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$35,000

The Soundwatch Stewards project goal is to reduce vessel disturbances to orcas and other marine wildlife in the Haro Strait region of San Juan County. This is done by contacting boaters on the water and providing them educational materials and guidance about marine wildlife viewing regulations and guidelines. In addition, they monitor and record vessel activities near marine wildlife.



1,777 vessel contacts  
 170 whale days (boat on the water)  
 5,700 volunteer hours

**Project:** Native Plant Nursery Relocation  
**Sponsor:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Other - Habitat/Facility Development project  
**Cost:** \$7,236

An ALEA grant supported the move of Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group's (SFEG) native plant nursery to a new location. Previously, SFEG had sub-leased property for the nursery, but this became no longer an option. This nursery provides plants to support habitat restoration throughout the Samish and Skagit basins. Several work parties were held to transfer all the plants, install an irrigation system and construct a new nursery including a plant storage area, shade structures, tools/materials storage and a gravel access driveway.



8,000+ native plants relocated  
 195 volunteer hours

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Salmon Stewards  
**Sponsor:** Sound Salmon Solutions  
**Type:** Other: Education/Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$9,536

The Salmon Stewards project involved 21 classrooms at eight schools that received classroom lessons and took service learning field trips to benefit salmon habitat. The classroom lessons covered topics such as Pacific salmon, watersheds, healthy salmon habitat, non-point source pollution and more. The service learning field trip consisted of students, parents and teachers planting native vegetation at active riparian restoration sites to benefit Chinook habitat in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish watersheds. By engaging youth and their parents in restoration projects in their community, Sound Salmon Solutions hopes to instill a sense of long-term stewardship that will benefit salmon populations in the future.

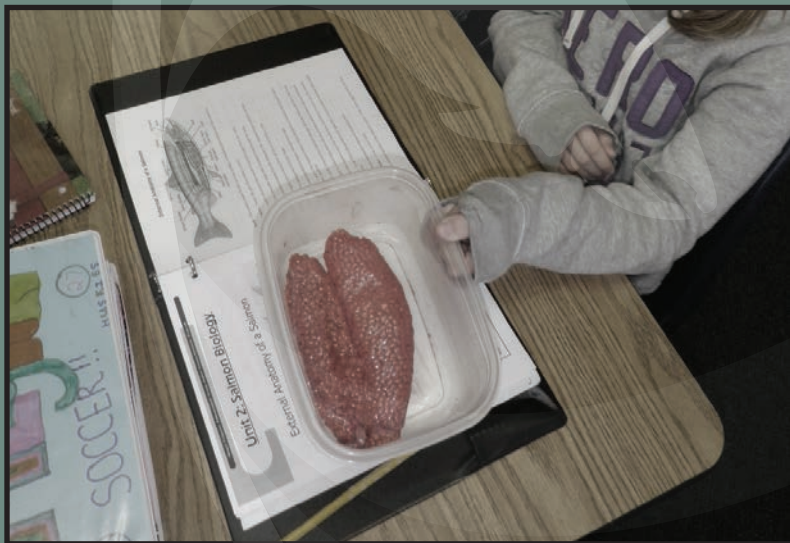


910	native trees and shrubs planted
501	student participants
1,127	volunteer hours

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Junior Stream Stewards  
**Sponsor:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$24,640

The Junior Stream Stewards program engages middle school students from four Skagit County school districts in hands-on study of stream ecosystems and salmon through in-class instruction, field activities and service-learning projects. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group staff and volunteers provided classroom lessons and hosted students for a watershed tour. Students also participated in riparian plantings in Skagit and Samish watersheds to improve salmon habitat.



11.5 acres of riparian habitat improved  
1,220 student participants  
1,807 volunteer hours

**Project:** Creosote Treated Log Cleanup Project  
**Sponsor:** Puget Soundkeeper Alliance  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$8,626

Creosote is a toxic substance that leaches out of treated lumber and into the environment harming human and aquatic life. Many Puget Sound beaches have sizeable accumulations of creosote-treated wood. To address the issue at Lincoln Park in Seattle, the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, partnering with Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Department of Natural Resources, removed several creosote treated logs from a one-mile stretch of beach disposing of them in a landfill.



15.2 tons of creosote treated wood removed  
35 volunteer hours

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Snoqualmie Restoration and Stewardship Project  
**Sponsor:** Stewardship Partners  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$8,616

Stewardship Partners continued their ten-year commitment to habitat restoration on the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries. Enlisting volunteers, they planted native trees and shrubs at several locations in the Cherry Creek basin to provide riparian buffers essential for healthy salmon populations.

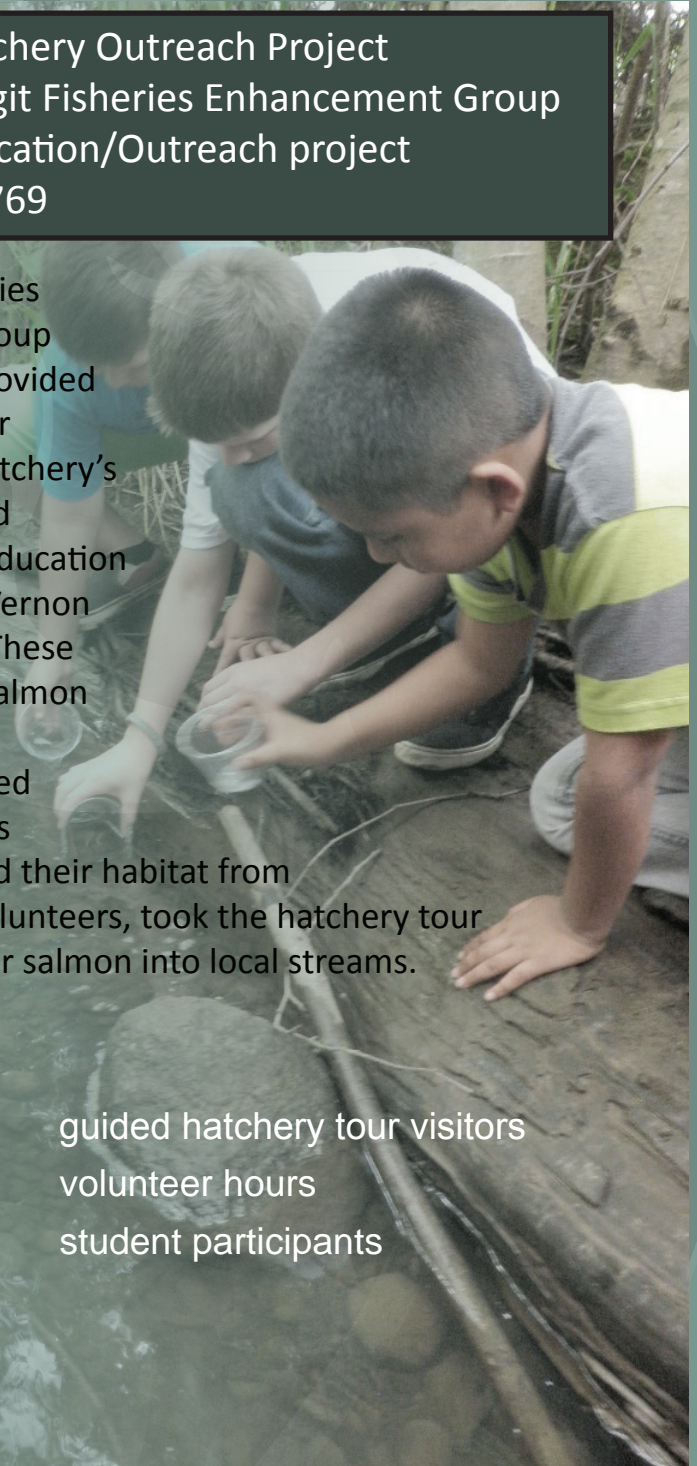


1.2 miles of river bank planted  
 452 volunteer hours

**Project:** Hatchery Outreach Project  
**Sponsor:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$8,769

This Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) project provided hatchery tours for Marblemount Hatchery's visiting public and salmon-related education to three Mount Vernon school classes. These students raised salmon in a classroom aquarium, received classroom lessons about salmon and their habitat from SFEG staff and volunteers, took the hatchery tour and released their salmon into local streams.

1,858 guided hatchery tour visitors  
 805 volunteer hours  
 170 student participants



# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Vaux's Happening  
**Sponsor:** Pilchuck Audubon Society  
**Type:** Other: Education/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$4,956

Pilchuck Audubon received an ALEA grant to support their efforts in educating the public about Vaux's swifts and documenting swift numbers at roosting sites. A camera on the top of the old chimney at Frank Wagner School provided a live feed of the swifts activity at this major roost site. The grantee also coordinated Monroe's "Swift Night Out" celebration, where the public can get information about swifts and view the spectacle of thousands of swifts returning to the chimney for the night.



1,151,886 roostings counted at multiple sites during northbound and southbound migrations  
 785 volunteer hours

**Project:** Volunteer Monitoring Program  
**Sponsor:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$10,072

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group trained 64 volunteers to conduct salmon spawner surveys, assess instream habitat, track riparian vegetation survival and growth and sample juvenile salmonids. These monitoring efforts are an essential element of salmon enhancement and improving the natural watershed conditions beneficial for salmon.



20 streams received spawner surveys  
 8 instream habitat surveys conducted  
 32 sites evaluated for riparian planting survival  
 2,826 volunteer hours

# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Snoqualmie Valley Community Restoration Project  
**Sponsor:** Sound Salmon Solutions  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$17,999

This habitat enhancement project focused on weed control and native plant installation at three restoration sites: Stillwater Wildlife Refuge, McCormick Park in Duvall, and Camp River Ranch near Carnation. Girl Scouts participated by potting and maintaining plants, learning about the importance of native plants in riparian areas and installing them at the camp restoration site.

5,629 native plants planted over 11 acres  
 12 acres of weed control  
 1,360 volunteer hours



**Project:** Students for Salmon  
**Sponsor:** Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$19,621

Students for Salmon is a hands-on environmental education program that facilitates scientific explorations of riparian ecosystems and fosters a stewardship ethic for salmon and their habitat.

This program serves students in all Whatcom County school districts and four additional schools.

The program consists of classroom lessons about the local watershed, the salmon that inhabit it, salmon habitat requirements and restoring riparian areas.

Students also participate in a field trip that builds on the classroom lessons through hands-on activities.

2,281 student participants  
 4,700 volunteer hours





# REGION 4 PROJECTS

**Project:** Community Based Native Plant Restoration  
**Sponsor:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$19,670

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) collaborated with multiple groups to engage community volunteers in restoring degraded riparian areas of salmon habitat in the Skagit and Samish watersheds. Through 22 work parties held over the two year grant period, volunteers helped maintain the native plant nursery and installed the plants at local restoration sites.



10,000 plants planted at restoration sites  
1,596 volunteer hours  
6,661 plants potted and maintained  
22 work parties

St. Helens Land Access Program pg. **32**

WRIA 26, 27 & 28 Restoration Support pg. **31**

WRIA 26, 27 & 28 Nutrient Enhancement Support pg. **33**

Cooperative Riparian Enhancement Project pg. **34**

# REGION 5



# PROJECTS



Weyerhaeuser Mt. St. Helens Tree Farm Hunting Access pg. **32**

Skamania County Restoration pg. **32**

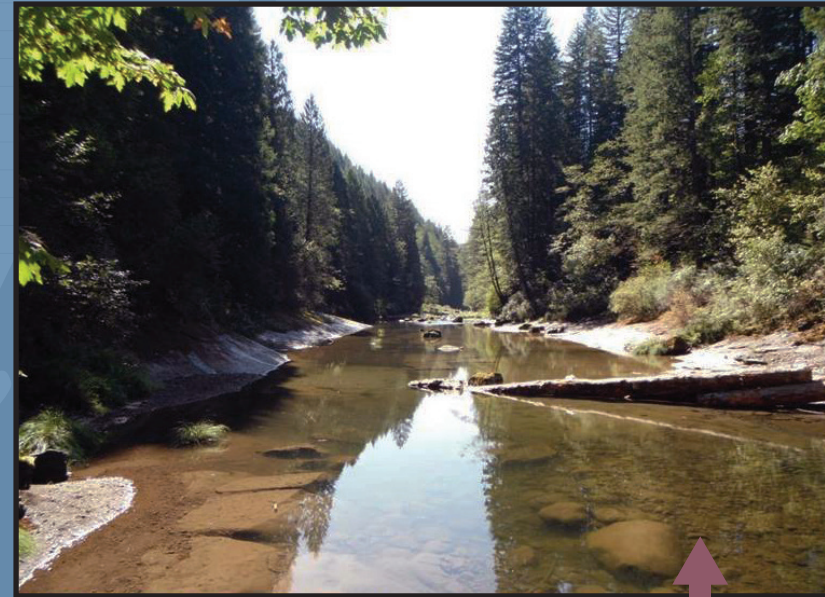
Cavity Nest Box Projects pg. **34**

# REGION 5 PROJECTS

**Project:** WRIA 26, 27 & 28 Restoration Support  
**Sponsor:** Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$51,181

This project addressed limiting habitat factors affecting natural production of steelhead, chinook, coho and chum in southwest Washington State. At project sites in the Washougal, Hamilton Creek and North Fork Lewis River watersheds large wood structures were placed, spawning channel improvements were made and native trees and shrubs were installed in riparian areas. ALEA funds provided for purchase of planting materials, large woody debris, tools and safety equipment. At least 300 volunteers contributed to the success of this project.

5	acres of riparian habitat restored
50	large wood structures installed
>5,000	square feet of channel habitat improved
11,500	volunteer hours



**Upper Washougal River**  
 large wood structure placement

**BEFORE**  
**AFTER**



# REGION 5 PROJECTS

**Project:** Weyerhaeuser Mt. St. Helens Tree Farm Hunting Access  
**Sponsor:** Yacolt Burn Sportsmen's Club  
**Type:** Other - Public Access project  
**Cost:** \$10,307

This project facilitated public hunting and recreational access to Weyerhaeuser's Yacolt block in 2011 and 2012. Volunteers staffed, patrolled and maintained gates and access points, ensured signage about area rules was in place and conducted litter cleanups in the area. These efforts were essential in maintaining a positive rapport with the landowner with the hopes of continued public access.

35,000 acres of public access maintained  
 1,064 volunteer hours

**Project:** St. Helens Land Access Program  
**Sponsor:** Southwest Washington Land Access Coalition  
**Type:** Other - Public Access project  
**Cost:** \$31,706

This project utilized volunteers to staff access points and Weyerhaeuser Co. gates in active logging areas to facilitate hunter access to the Mt. St. Helens tree farm. Having volunteers at key locations was essential to ensure a safe and orderly hunting season. Their presence was necessary for Weyerhaeuser to allow public access to the tree farm. The additional hunter access provided an opportunity to control the overabundant St. Helens elk herd.

6 volunteer training sessions conducted  
 282,850 acres of weekday hunting access kept open  
 4,973 volunteer hours

**Project:** Skamania County Restoration  
**Sponsor:** Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$16,200

An ALEA grant supported Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group's efforts at habitat restoration at multiple sites in Skamania County to benefit Endangered Species Act listed salmonid species. Large wood structures were installed, noxious weeds removed and native vegetation planted. Native plants used in restoration plantings were propagated by volunteers from Larch Mountain Correctional Facility and Hudson's Bay High School (See Cooperative Riparian Enhancement Project, page 33).



40+ large wood structures installed  
 755 volunteer hours

# REGION 5 PROJECTS

**Project:** WRIA 26, 27 & 28 Nutrient Enhancement Support  
**Sponsor:** Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$34,818

Salmon carcasses provide marine-derived nutrients that benefit juvenile salmon, wildlife and the aquatic ecosystem. Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, in coordination with other organizations and over 300 volunteers, dispersed surplus salmon carcasses into the Lewis, East Fork Lewis, Washougal, Coweeman, Toutle, Cowlitz and Kalama Rivers. The addition of the carcasses provided an estimated 2,044 pounds of marine-derived phosphorus and 17,261 lbs. of nitrogen and enhanced the productivity of approximately 260,000 square feet of habitat.



45,000 hatchery carcasses dispersed  
 5,050 volunteer hours

# REGION 5 PROJECTS

**Project:** Cavity Nest Box Projects  
**Sponsor:** Jim Hulbert  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$2,826

The ultimate goal of this project is to increase the number of breeding pairs of wood ducks and blue birds in Kickitat and Skamania counties. A limiting factor for these species is a lack of natural nesting habitat that would typically be dead trees and snags. To provide suitable artificial habitat where natural habitat is lacking, the project sponsor built and installed nest boxes. Occupancy surveys have been and are still being done. Of the nest boxes surveyed, 100% of the bluebird boxes were used by either blue birds or tree swallows and 60% of the wood duck nest boxes were used by wood ducks.



37 bluebird nest boxes installed  
 34 wood duck nest boxes installed  
 385 volunteer hours

**Project:** Cooperative Riparian Enhancement Project  
**Sponsor:** Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$39,335

The Cooperative Riparian Enhancement Project propagated native plants with assistance from Hudson's Bay High School greenhouse facilities and local volunteers. These plants are used in many riparian restoration projects throughout southwest Washington. A robust volunteer effort allowed the collection of thousands of cuttings from willow, dogwood and nine-bark.



32,000 native plants propagated  
 5,000 linear feet of habitat enhanced with native plant plantings  
 13,000 volunteer hours

# REGION 6

Oregon White Oak Restoration pg. **39**

Streamkeepers Bug-Sorting Team pg. **44**

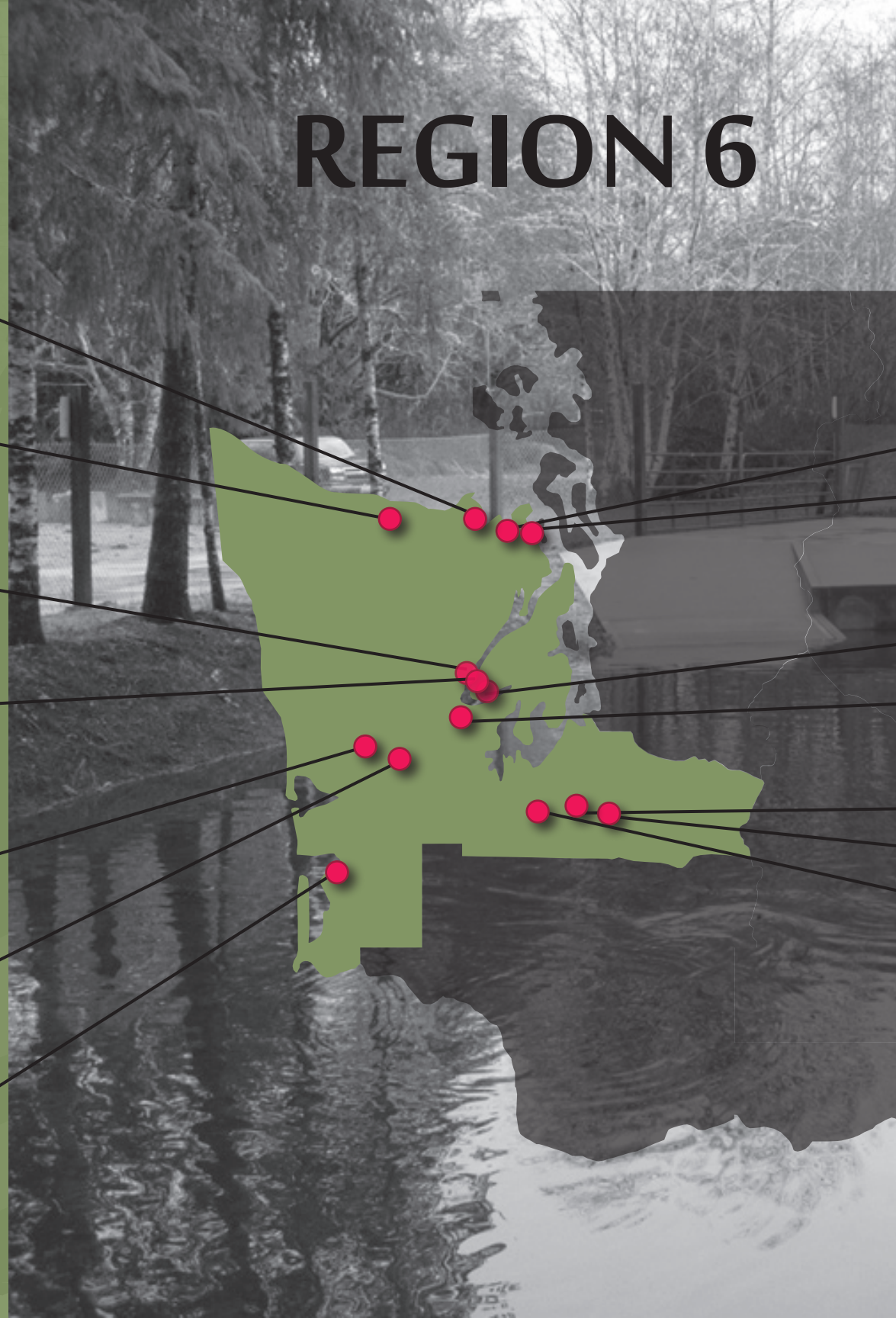
Hood Canal Steelhead Project - Lilliwaup Hatchery pg. **42**

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Mayr Brothers Hatchery - Rearing Pond Improvement and Chinook, Coho and Chum Salmon Rearing pg. **37**

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# PROJECTS

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North Olympic Salmon Coalition Nursery pg. **38**  
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Riparian Restoration Throughout the Nisqually Watershed pg. **41**

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# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Mayr Brothers Hatchery  
**Sponsor:** Grays Harbor Poggie Club  
**Type:** Artificial Production project  
**Cost:** \$194,162

The Grays Harbor Poggie Club continued operation of the Mayr Brothers Hatchery, rearing and releasing several hundred thousand salmon into the Wishkah River to benefit tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries. The club also completed several major hatchery infrastructure upgrades including installing a new pond liner, a modified water manifold, an ADA accessible fishing pad, a weir and a fish trap.



500,000 coho released  
 200,000 chum released  
 100,000 chinook released  
 6,947 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** South Fork Access Area  
**Sponsor:** Pacific County Anglers  
**Type:** Facility Development project  
**Cost:** \$3,370

The Pacific County Anglers installed a parking area at the South Fork Willapa River to provide better public access to local fishing, hunting and wildlife watching opportunities. The access area will allow parking for up to six vehicles.



76 volunteer hours

**Project:** NOSC Nursery and Riparian Plantings  
**Sponsor:** North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$21,932

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition's nursery raises plant stock used for estuary and riparian restoration projects. Over time these plants will provide shade, woody debris, erosion control and better water quality, improving critical habitat for salmon species. An ALEA grant supported nursery maintenance and expansion, riparian plantings and weed removal on previously planted sites.



2,000 native plants potted by volunteers  
 12 riparian planting events held  
 5 acres restored  
 990 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Oregon White Oak Restoration  
**Sponsor:** Sequim Community Foundation  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$2,171

Oregon white oak woodlands are listed as a priority habitat in Washington State. This project focused on maintaining a stand of these trees over a 20-acre parcel of land. Volunteers fertilized and weeded young oaks, checked browse protectors and rodent protection devices and mowed the area around the trees to remove competing vegetation.



Original photo by Jim Cummins - WDFW image gallery

1636 Oregon white oaks maintained  
 626 volunteer hours

**Project:** Thurston Ridge Community Restoration Project  
**Sponsor:** Nisqually River Foundation  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$5,177

Students, parents, teachers and interns installed native trees and shrubs at a three acre site along the mainstem Nisqually River. Students received a pre-planting trip presentation with information about the planting site, the importance of riparian plantings for salmon recovery and the overall ecological significance and traditional uses of native trees and shrubs. Weed removal and maintenance was performed before and after the plantings, which will be monitored through the 2015 growing season.

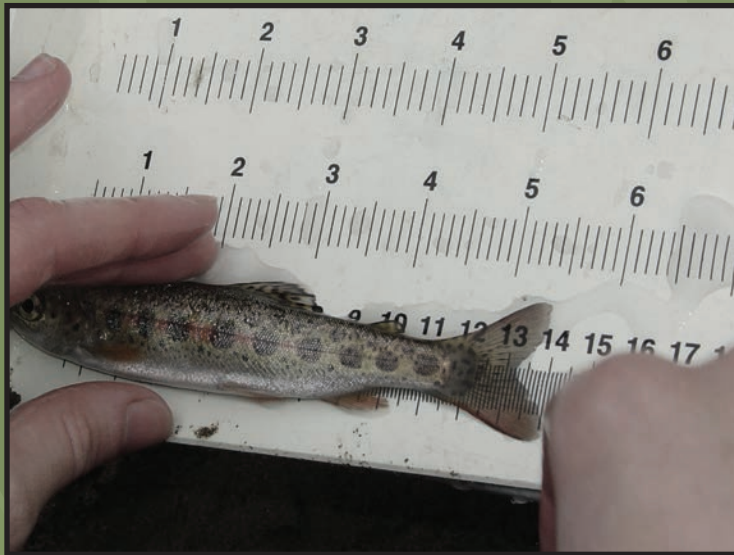


1,020 native plants installed  
 680 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Hood Canal Steelhead Project  
**Sponsor:** Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$8,965

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project goal is to restore steelhead runs in the Skokomish, Dewatto and Duckabush Rivers. These rivers are supplemented with native stocks of juvenile and adult steelhead and the abundance, genetic diversity, and life-history of the steelhead-supplemented streams is monitored along with and compared to three control streams. An ALEA grant supported redd surveys, biological data collection, embryo collection and smolt trapping. Ultimately, the data collected as a result of this project will determine if this type of supplementation is effective at restoring native steelhead stocks.



1,242 volunteer hours

**Project:** Satsop Springs Rearing Facility  
**Sponsor:** Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force  
**Type:** Artificial Production project  
**Cost:** \$60,396

Staff and volunteers at the Satsop Springs Hatchery reared and released coho, chinook and chum to enhance sport and commercial fisheries in the Chehalis Basin watershed, Grays Harbor and the coast. They conducted nutrient enhancement, distributing 12,475 pounds of salmon carcasses at 15 locations. They also stocked several area lakes with jumbo trout. Hatchery maintenance and facility upgrades were implemented to improve the efficiency of the operation.



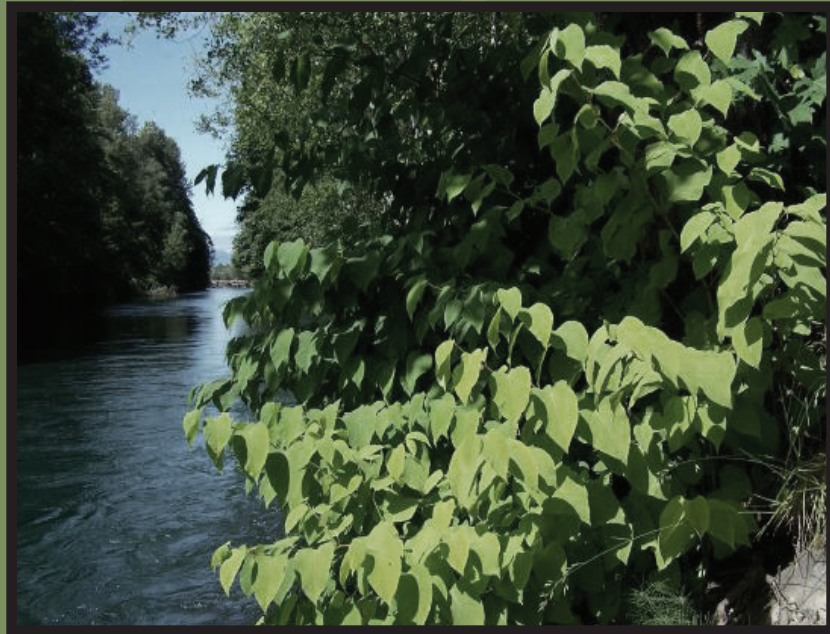
400,000  
 200,000  
 450,000  
 5,978

chum released  
 chinook released  
 coho released  
 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Knocking Out Knotweed in Mason County  
**Sponsor:** Mason County Noxious Weed Removal  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$610

Knotweed is an aggressive non-native plant that occurs in riparian areas and displaces native vegetation, lowering the overall quality of habitat for fish and wildlife. This project assisted landowners with knotweed control efforts by providing education, tools and supplies to control knotweed at locations on the Union River and Stimson Creek. Native plants were also installed at several sites.



1.25 river miles of knotweed controlled  
 83 volunteer hours

**Project:** Riparian Restoration Throughout the Nisqually Watershed  
**Sponsor:** Nisqually River Foundation  
**Type:** Habitat project  
**Cost:** \$8,443

This project was focused on riparian restoration at two sites in the Nisqually Watershed: Ohop Creek and Wilcox flats. Adult and student volunteers participated in planting events to install trees and shrubs that will provide shade, erosion control, woody debris and habitat to benefit salmon, other fish and wildlife.



2 acres restored along Ohop Creek  
 2.5 acres restored at Wilcox flats  
 2,700 plants installed  
 1,056 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Hood Canal Steelhead Project - Lilliwaup Hatchery  
**Sponsor:** Long Live the Kings  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$42,790

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project is a collaborative research and recovery effort that implements and assesses innovative wild steelhead supplementation techniques in the Hood Canal Basin. An ALEA grant primarily supported operating costs of the Lilliwaup Hatchery where the steelhead are reared before release into the Dewatto, Duckabush and Skokomish Rivers.



34,785 steelhead reared and released  
656 volunteer hours

# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Dewatto River Summer Chum Restoration Project  
**Sponsor:** Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
**Type:** Artificial Production project  
**Cost:** \$16,264

Following on the heels of successful efforts at reintroducing chum in the Tahuya River, the objective of this on-going project is to reestablish an extirpated run of summer chum on the Dewatto River. Summer chum eggs from Union River brood stock were raised at the George Adams Hatchery and on site at the Dewatto River until release into the Dewatto River. Volunteers were engaged in a wide variety of project tasks including brood stock collection, biological data collection and operating the fish trap 24/7 from August to October.



4,450 volunteer hours

**Project:** Salmon Spawner Volunteer Monitoring Program  
**Sponsor:** North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$17,634

This project is a continuation of summer chum and coho salmon spawner surveys on Jimmycomelately, Salmon, Snow and Chimacum Creeks. Volunteers are trained in proper survey protocol and report survey data to WDFW fish biologists to help determine management actions for these salmon species. Volunteers also assisted with setting up, monitoring and removing adult salmon traps at Jimmycomelately and Salmon Creeks and with fyke netting to monitor juvenile summer chum usage of the Salmon Creek Estuary.



1,563 volunteer hours



# REGION 6 PROJECTS

**Project:** Streamkeepers Bug-sorting Team  
**Sponsor:** Streamkeepers of Clallam County  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$5,483

The Streamkeepers Bug-sorting Team is one arm of the Streamkeepers of Clallam County who provide water quality data to public and private entities with the goal of improving watershed health for fish, wildlife and habitat. The Bug-sorting Team works to sort benthic macroinvertebrate samples that are later sent to a professional laboratory for identification. Benthic Macroinvertebrates are small animals (typically insects) living among the sediments and stones on the bottom of streams, rivers and lakes and are an indicator of water quality. An ALEA grant allowed the team to upgrade their equipment and more efficiently sort samples.



675 volunteer hours

**Project:** EITW Biological and Information Vail Check Station  
**Sponsor:** Eyes in the Woods  
**Type:** Other  
**Cost:** \$3,795

Eyes in the Woods volunteers operated a hunter check station at the Weyerhaeuser Company's Vail Tree Farm, providing the public information about hunting regulations and tree farm access rules and hours. They tallied the number of hunters passing through the check station and recorded harvested animals age and gender.



6,684 hunter contacts at check station  
 739 volunteer hours

# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS



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Kids Fish-In Program April & June 2012 April & June 2013 pg. **51**

Conserving Carnivores of Concern: Cascade Red Fox, Wolverine and Gray Wolf pg. **51**

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# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

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EITW Observation Witness League (OWL) pg. **50**



# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** COASST: Covering the Coast (2011-2012)  
**Sponsor:** University of Washington  
**Type:** Other - Education/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$11,322

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a citizen science program that monitors nearshore environmental health by collecting data on beached (dead) birds through mortality surveys. Volunteers participated in outreach events, talks and trainings to give them the knowledge and skills needed to conduct the surveys all along the coast.



137 sites surveyed  
 30 training sessions conducted  
 2,156 volunteer hours

**Project:** Youth Education and Wood Duck Enhancement  
**Sponsor:** Richland Rod and Gun Club  
**Type:** Other - Education/Citizen Science Project  
**Cost:** \$897

This project provided opportunities for youth to better understand wildlife conservation principles by actively participating in improving limited nesting habitat for wood ducks by constructing and installing wood duck nest boxes. In addition, the grant supported annual maintenance of nest boxes already installed throughout the Tri-cities area.



28 new nesting boxes constructed  
 388 existing nest boxes maintained  
 835 volunteer hours

# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Program  
**Sponsor:** Conservation Northwest  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$4,715

The Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Program engages citizen volunteers in documenting rare wildlife species, with an emphasis on wolves. Primary activities included snow-tracking and the operation, installing and placing of remote sensing cameras in the Central and Eastern Cascades. This project was successful in identifying individual members of the Teanaway wolf pack, contributing data points on the whereabouts of these wolves. Data is provided to WDFW and other organizations with interest in monitoring wolf movements.



3,912 volunteer hours

**Project:** Salmon in the Classroom Equipment Maintenance and Supplies  
**Sponsor:** Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$7,144

The Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program provided technical and maintenance support for area school's Salmon in the Classroom Programs. Activities included:

- Fixing and replacing aquarium equipment
- Delivering salmon eggs
- Salmon spawning trips to the Cle Elum River
- Providing salmon dissection, salmon life-cycle, water quality and habitat restoration presentations



100+ schools supported  
915 volunteer hours

# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** The Whale Trail Signs and Volunteer Travel  
**Sponsor:** The Whale Trail  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$6,800

The Whale Trail project works with a multitude of partners to place educational signs in several locations around the Northwest where the public may view orcas and other marine wildlife from the shore. The purpose of the signs is to increase awareness of orcas, other marine wildlife and their habitats, inspire stewardship and promote land-based whale watching.



2

new signs installed

**Project:** Eastern Gray Squirrel Ecology and Interactions with Western Gray Squirrels on Joint Base Lewis-McCord  
**Sponsor:** University of Washington  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$12,744

This project investigated competition between eastern and western gray squirrels in Washington. Some project activities include collecting squirrel locations via radio telemetry, trapping and removing eastern gray squirrels, measuring western gray squirrel habitat characteristics in areas used by squirrels and measuring reproductive output of gray squirrels. Results of the study are expected to guide wildlife managers in evaluating whether control of eastern gray squirrels is effective for recovering western gray squirrels.

2,105

volunteer hours

# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** Chehalis Basin Restoration through Education and Action  
**Sponsor:** Chehalis Basin Education Consortium  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$7,383

The Chehalis Basin Restoration through Education and Action project engages and educates youth on the importance of healthy riparian habitat and estuaries to salmon, migrating birds and other wildlife. Hundreds of students, teachers and community volunteers participated in a variety of activities including, water quality testing, native freshwater mussel monitoring, native plant installation, invasive plant removal and NatureMapping.



1,200+ student participants  
 900 volunteer hours

**Project:** EITW Observation Witness League (OWL)  
**Sponsor:** Eyes in the Woods  
**Type:** Other  
**Cost:** \$3,390

Eyes in the Woods is continuing to develop their OWL program, which uses trained volunteers as observers at key points of access to monitor conservation closures. Volunteers communicate to WDFW Enforcement if possible illegal activity is observed. In the initial deployment at Oak Creek Wildlife Area, volunteer efforts resulted in decreased illegal entry and a savings of WDFW Enforcement staff time who did not have to be on-site.

1,600 volunteer hours

**Project:** COASST Protocol and Field Guide Update  
**Sponsor:** University of Washington  
**Type:** Education/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$5,483

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a citizen science program that uses volunteers to monitor nearshore environmental health by collecting data on beached (dead) birds through mortality surveys. An ALEA grant enabled COASST to update their field guide to beached bird identification.

2,822 surveys completed  
 322 sites surveyed  
 1,600 volunteer hours

# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** Kids Fish-In Program April & June 2012  
April & June 2013  
**Sponsor:** Go Play Outside Alliance of Washington  
**Type:** Education/Outreach project  
**Cost:** \$110,100

The Go Play Outside Alliance of Washington (GOPAW) provided 24,500 rods and reels to organizations across the state who conduct kids fishing events and activities. These events give youth an opportunity to fish and participate in fishing and outdoor related educational experiences and hands-on activities.

Volunteers contributed significant hours coordinating the events, assembling rods and reels, staffing event booths, registering participants, assisting with fishing and fish cleaning demonstrations.

This grant supported the kids fishing at the following locations:

- Klinline Pond - Vancouver
- Lake Sacajawea - Longview
- Longs Pond - Lacey
- Rotary Pond - Kent
- Medical Lake - Spokane
- Moses Lake - Moses Lake
- Sarg Hubbard Pond - Yakima
- Columbia Park Pond - Kennewick
- Black Lake - Tumwater
- Leavenworth Hatchery - Leavenworth
- Gilchrist Pond - Colfax

**Project:** Conserving Carnivores of Concern: Cascade Red Fox, Wolverine and Gray Wolf  
**Sponsor:** Jocelyn Akins  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$13,641

This citizen science effort is focused on conducting remote camera surveys, snow tracking transects and trail searches for Cascade red fox, wolverine and gray wolf in the South Cascades. A long-term monitoring effort, documenting the presence of these elusive carnivores provides information to assist wildlife managers and update their conservation status.



11 fishing events supported  
18,000 volunteer hours for all events

6,771 volunteer hours



# MULTIPLE REGION PROJECTS

**Project:** Mountain Goat Conservation and Restoration in the North Cascades: Connectivity and Genetic Diversity  
**Sponsor:** Western Washington University  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$10,512

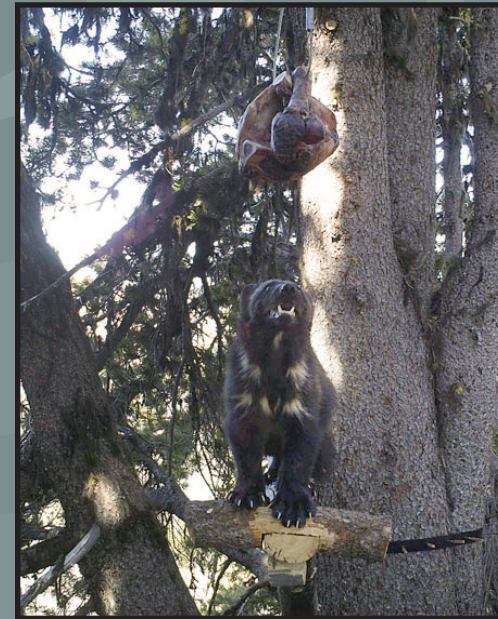
As part of a larger mountain goat research effort, this project involved collecting mountain goat fecal samples for genetic analysis. It complements a similar effort taking place in southern British Columbia and will clarify genetic diversity and population connectivity in the north Cascades.



350+ genetic samples obtained  
1,054 volunteer hours

**Project:** Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project  
**Sponsor:** Conservation Northwest  
**Type:** Research/Citizen Science project  
**Cost:** \$8,012

The Cascade Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project used remote camera monitoring and snow tracking to document and provide data regarding the presence, location and distribution of various rare and sensitive wildlife species. Volunteers installed cameras at locations that biologists identified as best available habitat for rare species such as wolverine, wolf, grizzly bear and lynx.



7,968 volunteer hours



# ALEA