



REGIONAL FISHERIES
COALITION

www.rfeg.org

—
WASHINGTON'S 14 REGIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUPS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Supporting and advocating for Washington's Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) as they fulfill their missions to protect, restore, and enhance our state's salmonid resources.

ABOUT US



REGIONAL FISHERIES
COALITION

Washington State's 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) formed a coalition in 2003 to showcase their collective achievements. The Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC) is the unified voice of the RFEGs, each of which has representation on the RFC.

In 1990, the Washington State Legislature created the nonprofit Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) program to involve local communities, citizen volunteers, and landowners in salmon enhancement efforts.

Each of the state's 14 RFEGs is a separate, local, nonprofit organization with its own board of directors and is supported by its members.

The RFEGs share a common goal of restoring salmon populations and habitat in their regions, relying on support from local communities. To meet this goal, they create dynamic partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies; Native American tribes; local businesses; and landowners.

Through these collaborative efforts, RFEGs help involve and lead their communities in successful restoration, education, and monitoring projects.



Sauk Floodplain



“Much of the critically important work to improve habitat for threatened salmon is done at the local level, through the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups. This is where the real progress is taking place.

—FORMER US REPRESENTATIVE NORM DICKS, WASHINGTON'S 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



RFEGs are critical to how we implement salmon recovery projects in Washington. They bring together agencies, tribes, landowners, scientists, and others to make sure the best projects are funded. Without RFEGs, we'd have a much harder time getting restoration projects off the ground.

—KALEEN COTTINGHAM, DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE

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WELCOME



COLLEEN THOMPSON
Managing Director

This year marks the 25th year of the RFEG program! RFEGs work at the local level to involve the community in the state's salmon recovery efforts.

Volunteers have logged thousands of hours planting trees, removing weeds, and scientifically monitoring salmon and their habitat to improve the likelihood of salmon and steelhead survival into future generations.

We engage people of all ages in hands-on education and outreach programming that helps shape the next generation of conservationists. These programs teach stewardship practices to reduce negative impacts to salmon and salmon habitat.

Our nature-inspired, science-based curriculum builds skills such as problem solving, communication,

and creative thinking, which are central to building strong communities and ensuring balanced decision making in our future leaders.

These programs encourage people to make connections between economic prosperity, environmental health, and quality of life, and to make better-informed choices that have a big impact in addition to on-the-ground restoration efforts.

Not only are RFEGs a good investment for salmon, but they also generate economic activity through job creation. Habitat restoration projects require talented staff, environmental consulting, and contracted services to complete the work.

Restoration also provides the diversity and quality of habitat necessary to support salmon and a robust fishery that generates economic activity as other goods and services are purchased.

As you read through this report, I hope you find yourself connecting through salmon to the places you love throughout Washington.

Salmon have much to teach us about our role in the ecosystem and the impact of our actions on future generations. RFEGs provide opportunities to learn to become better stewards and actively engage in restoration in meaningful, lasting ways. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer!

“Salmon are the purpose, but the community is at the heart of the RFEC program.” —COLLEEN THOMPSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, REGIONAL FISHERIES COALITION



WHAT WE DO



HABITAT RESTORATION

Salmon and steelhead require a variety of habitat for spawning, rearing, and completing their migration to and from saltwater.

RFEGs utilize local salmon recovery plans and priorities to implement a wide variety of habitat restoration activities that support the entire ecosystem salmon and steelhead need to complete their journey.

These activities include protecting and restoring in-stream habitat diversity, planting native vegetation and removing invasive species in riparian areas, improving water quality, reconnecting floodplains, and restoring nearshore habitats that are important for refuge, food, and passage to the sea.

HIGHLIGHT AREA: Fish Passage

The ability of salmon and steelhead to swim upstream to their traditional spawning grounds is vital to salmon recovery across Washington. RFEGs are an important link to the community and working with landowners to remove fish passage barriers and opening miles of habitat.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

RFEGs promote stewardship through educational programs that engage the community in understanding salmon and the natural world.

RFEG K-12 science-based education opportunities give thousands of students each year the opportunity to get out of the classroom and apply Core Standards to real world examples. A variety of internships, service learning positions, workshops, and volunteer opportunities help community members of all ages learn about the ecosystem and salmon.

HIGHLIGHT AREA: CATS Program

RFEGs were chosen by the Puget Sound Partnership to implement the Citizen Action Training School. This program increases civic participation, leadership, public engagement, and education to improve local ecological health, awareness, water quality, and aquatic habitat. RFEGs are uniquely situated in their communities to implement meaningful education and outreach programs through diverse partnerships that ignite a passion for salmon and provide the training and skills necessary for future conservation efforts.



ENHANCEMENT

RFEGs engage in two types of enhancement, both of which are invaluable to the recovery and survival of ESA-listed salmonid stocks.

FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Salmon enhancement activities help to recover and conserve the state's naturally spawning salmon populations. Every year, RFEGs raise tens of millions of salmon eggs, smolt, and fry and release them into creeks and rivers.

NUTRIENT ENHANCEMENT

RFEGs distribute thousands of salmon carcasses to provide marine-derived nutrients to support the watershed ecosystem. In watersheds with intact rearing and spawning habitat, nutrient enhancement may be the last option in an attempt to bolster juvenile production and promote the recovery of dwindling returns of natural-origin salmon and steelhead stocks.



ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

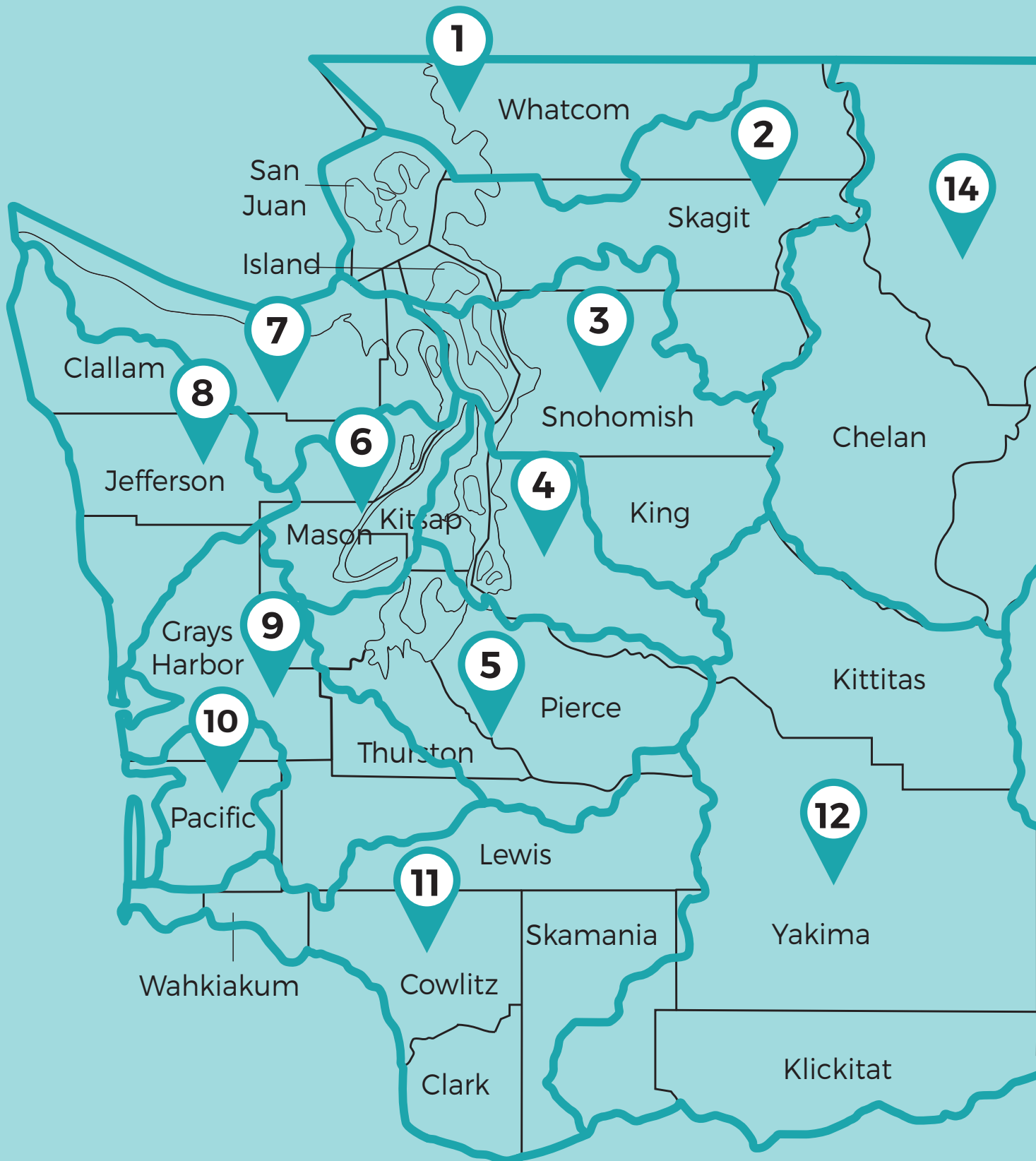
A major threat to salmon recovery is the lack of data about fish and watershed health. RFEGs help to fill the information gap.

Lack of current information limits the ability to measure precisely the impact of salmon recovery efforts or estimate future numbers of fish.

The RFEGs help fill this gap by regularly implementing cost-effective scientific monitoring programs through the use of trained citizen scientists to assess long-term impacts of habitat restoration projects, analyze cost effectiveness and feasibility of projects, and provide assistance to the co-managers in quantifying salmon populations.

WHERE WE WORK

THE RFEGs





WASHINGTON'S 14 RFEs

- 1 Nooksack SEA
- 2 Skagit FEG
- 3 Sound Salmon Solutions
- 4 Mid Puget Sound FEG
- 5 South Puget Sound SEG
- 6 Hood Canal SEG
- 7 North Olympic SC
- 8 Pacific Coast SC
- 9 Chehalis Basin FTF
- 10 Willapa Bay RFEg
- 11 Lower Columbia FEG
- 12 Mid Columbia RFEg
- 13 Tri-State Steelheaders
- 14 Cascade Columbia FEG

CASCADE COLUMBIA

OROVILLE TONASKET OMAK PATEROS TWISP WINTHROP ENTIAT CHELAN
WENATCHEE LEAVENWORTH PLAIN

White River

CCFEG is a very collaborative partner. Their ability to manage projects and public outreach provides a valuable resource to my restoration team.

—KATE TERRELL, HABITAT RESTORATION & CONSERVATION PROGRAM LEAD, US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

OUR MISSION

CASCADE COLUMBIA FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP (CCFEG) IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WORKING WITHIN CHELAN, DOUGLAS, OKANOGAN AND FERRY COUNTIES TO COOPERATIVELY FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. OUR WORK IS BASED ON PUBLIC TRUST, OUTREACH, VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION OF WILLING LANDOWNERS, BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE, AND BEST VALUE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

Featured Project: Methow Riparian Restoration

The primary objective of the Methow Riparian Restoration project is to systematically restore riparian habitat on large, publicly owned parcels within the Methow Valley, leading to improved habitat for salmonids and other wildlife.

The project, which is taking place on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) lands, addresses the lack of healthy riparian plant communities and affects coho and Chinook salmon in spawning, fry, and migratory stages, as well as steelhead and many resident fish species.

These sites have been impaired from many years of agriculture and livestock grazing practice. The native riparian vegetation, which at one point made the Methow such a suitable habitat for salmonids, has generally been removed, significantly diminished, and/or



Methow riparian restoration before (left) and after (right)

These plantings will augment future restoration projects in the area, providing a healthy riparian zone and a sustainable source of suitable large woody debris, giving cover to salmonids from the sun and predators, and helping stabilize river banks.

replaced by invasive plants and noxious weeds.

CCFEG and WDFW are replanting degraded areas, primarily in former crop lands, with native riparian species, which will help to restore

the natural habitat processes.

Riparian restoration reduces stream temperatures, increases large woody debris recruitment, and increases habitat diversity and channel stability.

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

08

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

09

275



trees planted in riparian areas

1,815

K-12 students reached via hands-on education & events

CASCADE COLUMBIA

Featured Partner: Hana Butler, Educator

By Hana Butler

I have been involved with CCFEG for the past three years as a collaborating partner in delivering quality experiential education to youth in the Wenatchee Valley with Chelan County Extension, WestSide High School, and Wenatchee Valley Tech Center.

CCFEG has provided multiple in-class demonstrations and lessons to youth of all ages about fish anatomy, life cycle, and human impacts. These opportunities are creating and supporting hands-on field experience that helps students do relevant projects while learning about career opportunities in the field of natural resource management.

Together we created Learning Landscapes, a curriculum of youth programming for the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust that served four different elementary and middle school after-school programs. We've also collaborated to create a standards-based fish dissection curriculum for CCFEG to deliver and to provide as a tool for other teachers.

As a teacher, it is difficult to find the time and funding to apply for grants, organize projects, and secure field materials. CCFEG dedicates time, staff and resources to helping make a difference for teachers and students in how they understand, relate, and become stewards of the Wenatchee watershed.

Partnering with CCFEG is rewarding in many ways, mostly in how it expands my ability and my program's ability to get students outside, or in the classroom, doing really cool things! The staff are supportive, easy to work with, and passionate about what they do!



**Hana Butler, Educator,
Wenatchee**

Hana has partnered with CCFEG for several years to provide valuable field and classroom experiences for high school and vocational students in the Wenatchee area.

CCFEG's support of youth in the classroom and in the field to help them better understand our watershed has been a huge resource and inspiration for my students and for me. —HANA BUTLER, EDUCATOR

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	White River Large Wood Attonement	Enhance 8,448' of instream habitat. Completed 2015.
	Restore Lower Peshastin Creek - Design	Design/scoping channel restoration for lower 1,584' of Peshastin Creek. Active.
	Mill Creek Fish Passage I	Remove fish barrier on Mill Creek, Okanogan Co., opening 14,836' of habitat. Completed 2015.
	Silver Side Channel - Design	Designed channel restoration of 6,000' Methow River side channel. Completed 2015.
	Silver Side Channel Revival - Implementation	Finish design and permitting fall 2015. Active.
	Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment	Geomorphic reach assessment and restoration opportunities along 11 miles of Methow River. Active.
	Methow River Riparian Restoration	Establish Riparian Buffer along 200' of the Methow River, slope eroding bank, install fir-tree bough revetment, plant and seed with native species, remove invasive weeds, remove 6 cars. Active.
	Wenatchee Nutrient Assessment - Treatment Design	Developed nutrient enhancement plan in upper Wenatchee. Completed 2014.
	Icicle Fund - Watershed Education	2,651 participants reached during hands-on outreach and education programs.
	Okanogan Rock Weir Removal	Remove large rock dam on Okanogan River to restore fluvial processes. Completed 2015.
	Bureau of Reclamation - Methow Project Development	Scope and feasibility of restoration projects in the Methow to benefit ESA species. Active.
	Stormy Creek Fish Passage	Design two new crossing structures on Stormy Creek. Active.
	Middle Entiat - Project Area C	Design and scoping for large river restoration projects. Active.
	White River Culvert Removal	Permit and coordinate removal of culvert resulting in connection to 45-acre wetland. Active.
	Silver PIT Tag Array	Monitor fish use of Silver Side Channel - Middle Methow. Active.
	Methow-Chewuch Groundwater	Monitor groundwater for design/scoping of side channel rehabilitation. Completed 2015.
	Mill Creek Fish Passage II	Remove fish barrier on Mill Creek. Completed 2015.

CHEHALIS BASIN

ONALASKA PE ELL CHEHALIS ROCHESTER OAKVILLE MCCLEARY ELMA
MONTESANO ABERDEEN HOQUIAM OCEAN SHORES COPALIS CROSSING
CENTRALIA WESTPORT COSMOPOLIS PACIFIC BEACH OCOSTA



OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **CHEHALIS BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE (CBFTF)** IS TO PRODUCE SALMON FOR SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES; ENHANCE STEELHEAD AND SEARUN CUTTHROAT TROUT RESOURCES; AND RESTORE, ENHANCE, AND PROTECT STREAM HABITAT CRITICAL TO THESE ANADROMOUS SPECIES. CBFTF IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO INCREASING SALMONID POPULATIONS FOR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN.

Featured Project: Satsop Springs

The Satsop Springs Rearing Facility operates through a cooperative agreement with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to raise and release rainbow trout, coho, Chinook, and chum.

Each year we raise approximately 450,000 coho, 600,000 Chinook, and 450,000 chum, in conjunction with the Bingham Creek Hatchery.

About 6,000 rainbow trout are raised at the Satsop Springs Rearing Facility, to be distributed to multiple lakes and ponds within Grays Harbor and Mason Counties.

This stocking effort would not occur without the help of many dedicated volunteers.

Trout planting is very labor intensive: fish are seined to corral them to one end of the pond, they are dip-netted from the pond and loaded into large oxygenated tanks on the back of trucks, and finally they are hauled to designated lakes and released.

The fish average 4-5 pounds each for the early plants in March and April. As the season progresses, fish weighing 8 to 10 pounds each are planted.



Seining coho salmon

Volunteers seine coho returning to Satsop Springs to be excessed to Ocean Gold. Eggs from Chinook and chum returning to Satsop Springs are collected and then taken to Bingham Creek Hatchery for fertilization and incubation. Half are returned to Satsop Springs as fry or smolts for release. Coho fry are reared at Satsop Springs from July until released as smolts into the East Satsop River system the following spring.

66 One of the most amazing aspects of the Task Force is the dedication and commitment of its volunteers. —COMMISSIONER STAN PINNICK, PORT OF GRAY'S HARBOR

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:
08

ACTIVE PROJECTS:
28

862k



fish released

2,775

carcasses returned to streams (pounds)

CHEHALIS BASIN

Featured Partner: Jarred Figlar-Barnes

By Jarred Figlar-Barnes

My involvement with the CBFTF began in 2010. I was starting high school, and was a member of the Grays Harbor Stream Team. It was through the Stream Team, and my work on the McDonald Creek Restoration Project, which I'd started in 2009, that my partnership with the Task Force began.

Since then, the Task Force has been the official sponsor of the McDonald Creek Project. Had it not been for the Task Force, almost all of the stream restoration projects now complete on McDonald Creek, including the successful return of coho runs, would not have been possible.

CBFTF's various restoration projects have opened up countless miles of ideal in-stream fish habitat to salmonids and other fish species. This work has dramatically improved the chances for salmonids to

spawn, rear, and return successfully to the basin.

CBFTF's Chenois Creek and Wilson Creek barrier replacement projects particularly stand out. Chenois Creek, a Family Forest Fish Passage Program funded project northwest of Hoquiam, replaced perched culverts with a large bottomless steel arch culvert and opened up many miles of habitat. The Wilson Creek project, just northeast of East Aberdeen, replaced a switchbacking logging road that had 20 feet of road fill on top of the barrier culvert, with a brand new steel bridge, opening up the rest of the Wilson Creek watershed to salmonids. Both projects demonstrate the unique locations and difficulties that can be inherent in stream restoration.

I can't think of anything more rewarding than the invaluable knowledge I have gained about restoration from the Task Force.



Chenois Creek culverts during construction

The perched culverts at Chenois Creek presented an obstacle to migrating salmon. The culverts were replaced with a new steel arch culvert, opening up many miles of valuable spawning habitat.

The CBFTF is one of those unique, rare, and valuable groups that not only discusses and plans restoration work, but also turns those plans into direct action and implementation. —JARRED FIGLAR-BARNES, CBFTF VOLUNTEER

Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.






























OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Chenois Creek GHC SRFB	2 miles of stream opened.
	B & D Tree Farm FFFPP	2.38 miles of stream opened.
	Baxter FFFPP	1 mile of stream opened.
	Clark FFFPP	.6 miles of stream opened.
	Coddington FFFPP	.75 miles of stream opened.
	Hoffman FFFPP	.16 miles of stream opened.
	Elk River	.04 miles - 3 artificially created spawning beds were re-graveled.
	Satsop Springs	495,000 coho smolts reared and released.
	Satsop Springs	140,000 Chinook smolts reared and released.
	Satsop Springs	226,700 chum fry reared and released.
	Satsop Springs	200,000 Chinook eggs collected for broodstocking.
	Satsop Springs	460,000 chum eggs collected for broodstocking.
	Onalaska High School	100,000 coho fry.
	Onalaska High School	35,000 steelhead.
	Satsop Springs	875 carcasses = 7,408 pounds.
	Onalaska High School	1,900 carcasses = 13,650 pounds.
	Onalaska High School	30 students in the aquaculture class.
	Watershed Festival	50 youths.
	Satsop Springs	Failing culvert replaced to increase water flow and for flood control purposes.
	Satsop Springs	52 suspended/settleable solids, dissolved oxygen, and PH tests of fish ponds.
	SRFB/FFFPP	4 pre-projects monitored as part of stream assessment.
	Chenois Creek GHC SRFB	1 post-project monitoring.
	B & D Tree Farm FFFPP	1 post-project monitoring.
	Baxter FFFPP	1 post-project monitoring.
	Clark FFFPP	1 post-project monitoring.
	Coddington FFFPP	1 post-project monitoring.
	Hoffman FFFPP	1 post-project monitoring.
	Rayonier Chenois Creek SRFB	6 sites post-project monitoring.
	Rayonier Campbell Slough SRFB	3 sites post-project monitoring.



HOOD CANAL

BELFAIR BRINNON DEWATTO ELDON HOLLY HOODSPORT LILLIWAUP
QUILCENE SEABECK SILVERDALE SKOKOMISH TAHUYA UNION

“In the restored Union River estuary, I’ve watched a changing landscape as the plants grow and adapt, an increase in wildlife, and—maybe most importantly—the estuary providing better cover for smolts as they change from fresh to salt water.

—LYNN FISHER, HCSEG PROJECT PARTNER

OUR MISSION

HOOD CANAL SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP (HCSEG/THE SALMON CENTER) STRIVES TO DEEPEN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LAND, PEOPLE, AND SALMON THROUGH RESTORATION, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH. OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT WILD SALMON ARE ONCE AGAIN ABUNDANT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Featured Project: Hood Canal Steelhead Project

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project is a 16-year project (2007-2022) that aims to restore three steelhead populations in Hood Canal while evaluating the effectiveness of hatchery supplementation as a conservation strategy for steelhead.

The current project, an expansion of the Hamma Hamma River Steelhead Supplementation Project, includes three additional supplemented streams (Duckabush River, Dewatto River, Skokomish River) and three control streams (Little Quilcene River, Tahuya River, Big Beef Creek). The project collects fertilized eggs from naturally constructed redds in

the Duckabush, Dewatto, and Skokomish Rivers. These fish are then reared in hatcheries until they are released back into their natal rivers.

Before, during, and after supplementation, the project monitors adult and juvenile abundance, genetic composition, and life-history patterns in all study streams. The project is a large collaborative effort to conduct work on seven Hood Canal streams. The Salmon Center's focus is to carry out field work on the Dewatto and Tahuya Rivers and smolt trapping on the Little Quilcene River.



Project partners and volunteers

The Hood Canal Steelhead Project tests a key hypothesis aimed at restoring three threatened populations: by rearing young fish in the protected environment of a hatchery until they are less vulnerable to predation and other threats, can we increase their odds of survival in the wild?

[It's rewarding] to place eyed eggs from a wet burlap bag into trays in the remote site incubator and watch salmon embryo grow into salmon fry; then to release the young salmon into a creek where they travel to the ocean, returning years later to the stream where they were born to complete the life cycle.

—JAY H. ALLEN, LANDOWNER, TAHUYA, WA; HCSEG PROJECT PARTNER

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

16

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

18

3,908



trees planted in riparian areas

1.5



miles of habitat enhanced or restored

HOOD CANAL

Featured Partner: Mike Ramsey, Grants Manager, RCO

By Mike Ramsey

HCSEG is the critical link between the local communities in Hood Canal and the state and federal funds supporting salmon recovery and habitat conservation efforts there.

As a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grants Manager, I've worked on over 40 projects with HCSEG since 2000, through the course of which the organization has been awarded \$7.5 million in grant funding. I've seen them leverage that funding to raise over \$8.1 million in matching funds.

The Union River Estuary Restoration project in Belfair is particularly impressive. HCSEG had two grants with the RCO for this project: \$130,000 for planning, and \$300,000 for construction. They then matched the restoration

funding with a \$1.5 million federal award.

The project itself was impressive due to its scale (31 acres) and being contentious within the community. HCSEG had to assuage concerns over losing a popular dike trail by building a raised causeway where sections of the dike were removed. They patiently moved the project through the public process and successfully restored estuarine function. The fish have returned and the phone calls to my office have stopped. So, I can only assume the people and the fish of Belfair are happy once again!

HCSEG is highly successful and efficient, often coming in ahead of time and under budget. They embody what's right with salmon recovery: an organic, grassroots effort toward what at first appears



As RCO Grants Manager, Mike Ramsey has worked with HCSEG on 40 projects in the Hood Canal basin.

to be an unsurmountable goal. They do this through a well thought out, science-based approach with professionalism, optimism, and grace.

The HCSEG's portfolio of 15 projects in Quicene Bay and on its tributaries is the single most intensive recovery effort by an individual entity in any Puget Sound embayment. These efforts have significantly improved fish habitat and have made many in Quilcene believers in salmon recovery.

—MIKE RAMSEY, GRANTS MANAGER, WASHINGTON RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.



















OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Big Quilcene River – Coastal Stream Acquisition & Restoration	130,680 ft. of salt marsh habitat restored in the Big Quilcene South Estuary. 3,328 trees/shrubs planted in project area.
	Lower Big Quilcene River Master Plan	Design & Planning project to improve the Lower 1.2 miles of Big Quilcene Delta.
	Knotweed Control & Riparian Enhancement	187,440 feet treated to restore riparian zones in the following watersheds, Big Quilcene, Dosewallips, Union, Big Anderson, Dewatto & Tahuya. 580 trees/shrubs planted during winter/spring 2014/2015 season.
	Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration - Phase 1	3 structures removed. Large wood placement, invasive plant removal and native plant re-vegetation in process within the lower 1 mile of Big Beef Creek.
	Union/Tahuya Summer Chum Project	115,000 ESA listed Summer Chum fry released into the Tahuya River. 672 adult ESA listed Summer Chum counted on the Union River in fall 2014.
	Hood Canal Steelhead Research Project	9 years completed in 16 yr. study aiming to rebuild ESA listed wild steelhead populations in Hood Canal. 6,723 two year old steelhead smolt and 250 4-5 yr. old adults released in spring 2015
	Hood Canal On-site Septic System Nutrient Reduction Project	2 yrs. in process, installation and monitoring of pilot septic system retrofit at two locations on Hood Canal.
	Little Anderson Creek IMW – Phase 3	LWD additions to 3 miles of Little Anderson Creek, includes invasive plant removal and development of culvert repair plans, in process.
	Dosewallips Estuary Acquisition & Barge Removal	Planning and removal of 190 x 42 sq. ft. creosote derelict barge in Dosewallips Estuary, in process.
	GreenSTEM Summit 2015	Project based environmental learning projects for K-12 classrooms in Hood Canal during 2014-2015 school year. 186 students presented their projects focused on STEM concepts at GreenSTEM Summit 2015 last spring. 25 teachers attended workshops during 2014-2015 school year for environmental based learning focused on STEM concepts.
	Streamside Landowner Social Marketing Program	Social marketing project focused on stream-side landowners in Hood Canal to provide guidance for native riparian vegetation enhancement. 1407 landowners contacted and 64 attendees participated in three workshops, 1,471 landowners outreached.
	Hood Canal ECONet Coordination	Networking and coordination of resource professionals and entities of environmental education in Hood Canal Watershed, 75 members outreached.
	Hood Canal Social Marketing - Crab retention	Social marketing project aimed to reduce the retention of undersized Dungeness crab in Hood Canal by sport fisherman. 3 launches, July 2014 (800), Sept 2014 (800), Spring 2015 (800) & website education (2000), 4,400 total outreached.
	CATS - Citizen Action Training School	A series of classes held in Sequim and Bremerton for local citizens which covered land use, law, policy, science, and communications surrounding Hood Canal and Puget Sound, 32 students.
	Salmon in the Classroom	Salmon life cycle education for third grade students in North Mason School District.
	Enviro-Camp	Day Camp for students in grades 1-6 twice a week during summer 2014 and summer 2015.
	Belfair Stormwater Study	Public outreach on detrimental effects of stormwater pollution.
	GreenSTREAM Day Camp	Summer 2015 Day Camp for 6th-12th graders each Friday.



LOWER COLUMBIA

NORTH BONNEVILLE CAMAS-WASHOUGAL VANCOUVER LA CENTER
WOODLAND KALAMA LONGVIEW KELSO TOUTLE CATHLAMET

OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **LOWER COLUMBIA FISH ENHANCEMENT GROUP (LCFEG)** IS TO LEAD THE PROCESS OF SALMON RECOVERY IN A WAY THAT ENSURES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN HABITAT RESTORATION SO THAT ABUNDANT, NATURALLY SELF-SUSTAINING SALMON AND STEELHEAD RUNS OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER REGION.

Featured Project: Riparian Nurseries

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group currently maintains two riparian nursery sites, with a third site planned for the winter of 2015.

At our primary nursery we containerize bare root stock, or grow plants from cuttings collected at or near our project sites. This nursery hosts between 12 and 17 species of riparian plants, depending on the type of projects we are currently managing.

Our other two nurseries—at Hudson Bay and Toutle Lake High Schools—double as education programs.

We are able to give students a hands-on experience that teaches

them about the importance of water quality and keystone species like salmon. Our program produces about twenty thousand native plants annually!

We manage projects in unique areas, from the Toutle River's broad, sandy floodplain to Woodward Creek's boulders and cobble, and we focus on using local plant stock wherever possible to maximize local adaptations.

Our riparian plantings must be adjusted to the parameters of the site we are working in; managing our own nursery gives us the flexibility to practice adaptive management.



Greenhouse and propagation ponds

LCFEG cultivates, raises, and plants thousands of native trees and shrubs throughout our watershed every year in our native greenhouse and nursery.

LCFEG provides planning, design, and coordination of conservation efforts to our volunteers to help restore fisheries. Our conservation work wouldn't be nearly as effective without the help of the LCFEG and its staff.

—CLARK SKAMANIA FLYFISHERS

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

13

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

20

25k



trees planted in riparian areas

10k

people reached via hands-on activities and events

LOWER COLUMBIA

Featured Partner: Amy Carpenter, Hudson's Bay Teacher

By Amy Carpenter

Hudson's Bay High School has been working with LCFEG for nearly five years. An Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant was written to fund a greenhouse in which native plant stock would be grown by Hudson's Bay students. The trees and shrubs would then be used in habitat restoration projects.

We have collaborated and held Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service events the past three years and have had over 150 students and community members volunteer a portion of the holiday to plant and tend trees that will be used in habitat projects. Our students have assisted in planting events as well.

The big engineering jobs that LCFEG is doing are amazing, but the fact that they have partnered with students to grow and produce the trees that are used to shade the streams and habitats that they are creating is really awesome.

This allows me as a teacher to "close the loop." I can teach students about salmon, habitat, and restoration easily, but when my students actually have a part to play in the salmon recovery and habitat restoration process, it makes them feel a part of the solution and have a greater connection to these projects.



Hudson's Bay High School volunteers in their LCFEG riparian nursery

Student volunteers from Hudson's Bay High School have worked with the LCFEG to grow native plants to be used in multiple riparian restoration projects. Through this work, the students gain hands-on experience as well as a sense of connectedness to the restoration projects in which they are participating.

LCFEG does amazing work in habitat restoration that benefits salmon and improves watershed health. We often hear about the need for salmon recovery but little attention is given to the underlying problems. When proper habitat is available, then water quality improves and salmon thrive.

—AMY CARPENTER, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, CTE NATURAL RESOURCES & AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.






















OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

 Riparian Nursery Program	54,000 plants produced.
 Nutrient Enhancement Program	49,000 carcasses (frozen and fresh) and 100,000 lbs. of analogs distributed.
 Duncan Dam Fish Passage	Prep work for start, permitting, materials.
 Hamilton Restoration	1,500 feet; 10,000 trees total. Completed 2015.
 Ives Island Restoration Design	1 design produced. Completed 2015.
 Shire Design	1 design produced. Completed 2015.
 Development and Design	1 design produced, 8 projects monitored. Objectives met 2015.
 Lower Kalama Reach 1a Tidal Design	1 design produced. Completed 2015.
 Grays 2D	2,500 feet.
 Cedar Creek	2,500 feet of fish passage addressed on this project. Completed 2015.
 Coweeman	Prep work for start.
 Silver Blue Bird Design	1 design produced. Completed 2015.
 Woodard Creek	3,000 feet. Completed 2015.
 South Fork Toutle Restoration III	1,500 feet; 2,000 trees. Completed 2015.
 Rayonier	2,500. Completed 2015.
 Grays Chum Channel NF Lewis 13.5	5,000.
 Washougal Dougan	Prep work for start.
 Haapa	Prep work for start.
 South Fork Toutle Confluence	Prep work for start.
 South Fork Toutle Johnson	Prep work for start.
 Outreach and Education	500. Objectives met.



MID-COLUMBIA

ROSLYN CLE ELUM ELLENSBURG SELAH YAKIMA SUNNYSIDE GRANGER
PROSSER KENNEWICK RICHLAND PASCO GOLDENDALE WHITE SALMON
BINGEN STEVENSON CARSON KLICKITAT LYLE

OUR MISSION

MID-COLUMBIA FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP (MCFEG) IS A NON-PROFIT, COMMUNITY-BASED GROUP DEDICATED TO RESTORING SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD. MID-COLUMBIA FISHERIES WORKS WITH LANDOWNERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE FISH HABITAT.

Featured Project: Bull Trout Task Force

Bull trout are a char native to the Pacific Northwest that were listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1998.

There are several reasons for their decline in the Yakima Basin, including passage barriers, water quality, incidental take, illegal poaching, competition with non-native species, hybridization with brook trout, and decreased food sources.

The Bull Trout Task Force was piloted in 2011 and is a unique project that provides an on-the-ground crew to reduce

recreational impacts to bull trout. Objectives of the project include outreach to the recreating public, removal of recreational rock dams, monitoring passage conditions in spawning tributaries, population monitoring through redd and snorkel surveys, and assisting with special research projects.

From 2011-2014, the Bull Trout Task Force has directly educated over 6,000 people, removed nearly 200 recreation dams to maintain fish passage for fall-spawning salmonids, assisted with numerous spawning surveys, and completed a handful of snorkel surveys.



Reducing recreational impacts to listed bull trout

MCFEG Bull Trout Task Force conducts outreach to local communities, provides educational opportunities, and monitors and assesses bull trout populations in a coordinated effort to reduce the potentially negative impacts of river recreation on this threatened species.

I like the community focus of MCFEG. They get local buy-in by engaging and educating the community through restoration projects.

—DIANNE DALESSANDRO, RIVERFRONT LANDOWNER AND MCFEG PROJECT PARTNER

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

33

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

35

1,900

students reached through field trips and classroom visits

07 

miles of salmon habitat enhanced or restored

MID-COLUMBIA

Featured Partner: Garrett Pettis, Volunteer

By Garrett Pettis

In 2013, I was a volunteer intern with MCFEG. In the summers of 2014 and 2015, I was a member of the staff. My work focused particularly on the Yakima Beaver Project.

This project moves nuisance beavers to headwater tributaries where they can improve habitat for juvenile fish. The project also helps landowners in lowland agricultural areas, where beavers are incompatible with irrigation infrastructure.

In these areas, beavers would otherwise be lethally removed. Instead, we live-trap and move entire beaver colonies to improve habitat and watershed function in the headwaters of the Yakima Basin.

Beavers modify habitat by building dams. The water pooled behind beaver dams is important for

fish, wildlife, and people. This is especially critical in dry climates, where beaver pools can help raise the water table and slowly release water during low-flow periods.

The Yakima Beaver Project provides a service to landowners who are having problems with beavers and helps beavers by relocating them to areas of the watershed where they can have the most benefit.

It has been very rewarding to monitor beavers that have been relocated to headwater tributaries. In many cases we've been able to document these relocated beavers building new dams and lodges, and flourishing in their new location.

In a few cases, we have even seen their young dispersing in the watershed to start new beaver colonies.



**MCFEG volunteer
Garrett Pettis**

Through the Yakima Beaver Project, beavers are relocated from private lands where they are a nuisance to landowners to headwater tributaries, where they can have a beneficial impact on salmon and steelhead habitat. Photo by Todd Erickson.

As beavers re-establish in these headwater streams, their dam-building activities will help improve habitat for many species, including salmon and steelhead.

My work with MCFEG allowed me to work outdoors every day and gain field skills and professional experience that are helpful to starting a

career. —GARRETT PETTIS, FORMER MCFEG VOLUNTEER & STAFF MEMBER

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Cle Elum River Side Channels	Riparian planting on 1,500 feet of the Cle Elum River.
	Yakima Basin Beaver Project	51 beavers relocated; 19 beaver release sites monitored; 58 stream miles on 24 streams surveyed.
	Bull Trout Task Force	37 recreation dams removed; 20 miles of stream surveyed; 897 people educated; 25 redds surveyed on 17 tributaries; 100 educational signs posted.
	Bateman Island Causeway	Design and model alternatives to improve habitat in Yakima Delta. Included technical and stakeholder meetings.
	Wilson Creek at KVFR	Project planning, permitting, site prep, and clean-up for instream and riparian project.
	Horse Heaven River Ranch Riparian	Monitoring, replanting, and removal of invasive weeds from a restoration project.
	Project Stewardship	Stewardship of 7 prior restoration sites, totalling more than a mile of river.
	Project Stewardship - Reecer Creek	20 acres of weeds treated; 230 new plants installed at an existing restoration project.
	White Salmon Beaver Assessment	Assessment of benefits of beaver relocations in anadromous tributaries of the White Salmon River.
	Swauk Creek at Highway 97	Project development for instream project.
	Bull Trout Plan	Support to regional organization for updates to Bull Trout Plan.
	White Salmon River Riparian	5 volunteer projects to steward riparian planting site. Two schools (8 classes, approx. 200 students) assisted.
	Backyard Buffers	5 riparian buffer projects with 13 landowners in 3 counties. 3,556 plants installed.
	Naches Road Decommissioning	Project planning.
	Oak Creek	Project planning.
	Little Rattlesnake Creek Road Removal	Removal of 5 miles of stream-parallel Forest Service road; stream restoration.
	Lower White Salmon River Habitat	Fish habitat assessment and protection planning completed after an extensive public process.
	Lower Cowlitz Creek Restoration	Project planning for floodplain restoration to remove 1,100 feet of old dike; replant 2,000 feet of stream.
	Jack Creek Restoration	Maintenance on 11,830 feet of cattle exclusion fence protecting native vegetation.
	Project Development	Work to develop new projects throughout our region.
	Educational Signage	3 educational signs installed.
	Yakima River Side Channels	Project development on 4 potential projects to restore side-channel habitat.
	Layout Creek	Fish passage barrier removed on tributary to Trout Creek, opening 0.9 miles of habitat.
	Mattawa Salmon Education Days	Hands-on salmon education field trip and salmon release for 6th grade classes (170 students).
	HHRR Salmon Education Days	Two field days each for 7 classes of 4th and 7th grades (175 students each day).
	Ellensburg Salmon Education Days	Hands-on salmon education field trip for 14 classes in Kittitas Co. (315 students).
	Water Jam	Hands-on salmon education field trip for 14 classes in Klickitat and Skamania Counties (320 students).
	Salmon in the Classroom - Ellensburg	Support for six tanks at six schools. Included 16 in-class presentations for 315 students.
	Yakima Valley Arboretum	Hands-on field trip for 150 6th grade students.
	Yakima Valley 5th Grade Camp	Hands-on field trip for 80 5th grade students.
	Benton Salmon Summit	Presented to 12 classes at field trip for 300 middle school students.
	Afterschool Programs	Activities with three schools, 51 students.
	Other Education Programs (K-12)	145 students reached at three other education programs (Lincoln, Dammon, Ellensburg High School).
	CWU Internship	10 college internships provided.
	Other presentations	10 community presentations reaching 1,076 participants.
	White Salmon River Education	Direct education to 575 river users through individual contact at boater "put-in" and "take-out."



MID PUGET SOUND

SEATTLE BELLEVUE ISSAQUAH KENT AUBURN RENTON BREMERTON
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PORT ORCHARD

OUR MISSION

MID SOUND FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP (MSFEG) WORKS WITH COMMUNITIES TO MAXIMIZE SELF-SUSTAINING SALMON POPULATIONS. IN KING AND EASTERN KITSAP COUNTIES, WE WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, AGENCIES, TRIBES, AND OTHERS TO IDENTIFY, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENT PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE SALMON HABITAT.

Featured Project: Carkeek Park Forage Fish Research

Forage fish are a critical part of the Puget Sound food web and fill a niche between plankton and salmon.

Very little is known about these fish, so along with three of its most passionate volunteers, MSFEG embarked on a year-long study of forage fish at Carkeek Park.

Each month, Christina Hersum, Vera Hoang, Gail Pethe, and MSFEG staff collect samples at low tide using protocols developed by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW).

The data collected will be used to answer basic questions, such as: Where do these fish spawn?

At what tidal elevation? During which months?

These volunteers are dedicated to science—and to educating the public about a type of fish that so few people know about.

Sand lance? Surf smelt? Most people will give you a blank stare. But with more data and more studies like this one, we can educate people about the importance of forage fish—and what can be done to protect them.

MSFEG is pleased to be actively working with the WDFW and the American Fisheries Society on a cutting-edge issue for Puget Sound.



66 Forage fish play a critical role in the food web, providing nutrients for marine mammals, seabirds, salmon and even people.

—PHILLIP DIONNE, RESEARCH SCIENTIST, WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

04

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

14

384

people reached via hands-on activities and events

1,030

hours contributed by volunteers

MID PUGET SOUND

Featured Partner: Kerry Ritland, Issaquah Public Works

By Kerry Ritland

I first started working with MSFEG when the City of Issaquah was working on the Lower Lewis Creek Restoration Project, and we found that we needed to supplement our internal capacity.

We partnered with MSFEG to help us complete the remaining tasks of the project. It was a good fit because of their role implementing small restoration projects.

They were able to streamline our permitting process and help finalize the design. Then, we decided to continue the partnership by having MSFEG help with construction management.

For all restoration projects, it is important to have an on-site project manager. Plans are great, but you still have

to make decisions constantly. Implementing the plan is a combination of engineering and art, because you have to work with what nature provides you.

We had considered hiring a consultant to help with some of the tasks. MSFEG was a better fit, not just because they were more cost effective, but also because they were more flexible in working with our municipal process and our needs for this project.

MSFEG also brought some very particular and helpful technical expertise—such as defishing the stream during the diversion process.

Each restoration effort has its own unique features. The Lewis Creek Restoration Project was a challenge in many ways, and also a learning experience. It was good to have the assistance of MSFEG to get it done.



Lewis Creek during the restoration project

Weirs and large woody debris were added to the upper reach of Lewis Creek as part of the restoration effort. The above image shows the creek bed during the restoration process, when the stream was diverted.

MSFEG does vital work restoring endangered salmon in the Mid Sound Region. They have worked well with Trout Unlimited restoring habitat for Kokanee in Lake Sammamish, and for other fish on the Kitsap Peninsula. —MARK TAYLOR, BELLEVUE/ISSAQUAH TROUT UNLIMITED

Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74–75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Ebright Creek Restoration	Completed planting plans, submitted permit applications.
	Gorst Creek Restoration	Completed year 1 of post-construction monitoring and maintenance.
	Lewis Creek Restoration	Completed permit submittal of final designs.
	Longfellow Creek Restoration	Initiated partnership discussions to fund construction of 4 culverts. Completed 2014.
	Green River Tributary Culverts	Post-construction wrap-up of work to replace 2 culverts, and remove 1.
	Big Spring Creek Smolt Trapping	Completed final report of 7 years of monitoring Big Spring Creek.
	Soos Creek Revegetation	Building partnerships and funding strategy for revegetation project in the Soos Creek watershed (subwatershed of the Green Duwamish watershed).
	WRIA 8 Outreach	Participated in WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, and Kokanee Workgroup meetings. Helped organize the Kokanee Fry Release event, with hands-on activities for 60 3rd graders from 2 local elementary schools, and a celebration by local community leaders.
	WRIA 9 Outreach	Participated in the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, the WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee, and a coalition of Duwamish and Green River nonprofit organizations.
	WRIA 15 Outreach	Participated in West Sound Watersheds Citizen Advisory Committee, as well as the West Sound Watersheds Technical Committee.
	Salmonberry Creek	Completed 10 year monitoring report for a construction project completed in 2004.
	Citizen Action Training School	Supported 29 participants in volunteer projects to restore Puget Sound.
	Forage Fish Monitoring	Initiated monthly monitoring of forage fish spawning at Carkeek Park with 3 CATS volunteers and staff using WDFW monitoring protocols. MSFEG staff presented the protocols during a breakout session at the Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators Association annual conference that MSFEG staff helped to organize.
	Eco Net Membership Analysis	ECO Net (Education, Communication and Outreach Network) is a project of the Puget Sound Partnership. Conducted membership analysis, participated in membership development, co-hosted an interpretive hike at Lake Sammamish State Park, and helped run the ECO Net regional summit that included all the Puget Sound region ECO Nets.





NOOKSACK

BELLINGHAM FERNDALE LYNDEN NOOKSACK EVERSON DEMING ACME

OUR MISSION

NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION (NSEA) IS A COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO RESTORING SUSTAINABLE WILD SALMON RUNS IN WHATCOM COUNTY OF WASHINGTON STATE. WE ENVISION ALL SALMONID (PACIFIC SALMON, NATIVE TROUT, AND NATIVE CHAR) HABITAT IN WHATCOM COUNTY TO BE PROTECTED AND/OR RESTORED, SUPPORTING SELF-SUSTAINING WILD POPULATIONS OF ALL SPECIES OF NATIVE SALMONIDS.

Featured Project: Students for Salmon

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association's Students for Salmon Program (SFS) is an educational program for students and teachers in grades 3-6.

It utilizes salmon as a lens to promote classroom and field research, hands-on science investigations, stewardship, and community service in an effort to produce ecologically literate citizens.

Through the multi-session SFS program, students gain a better understanding of complex scientific concepts, critical

thinking skills, and an empowered sense of stewardship and community through a series of classroom visits and outdoor field trips.

SFS is a well-established program that has partnered with public and private elementary schools in Whatcom County for over 15 years.

We currently work with schools from all seven school districts as well as homeschool groups and private schools to educate around 1,500 local students about salmon each year.



Students for Salmon program participants

For more than 15 years, Whatcom County students in grades 3-6 have had unique opportunities to learn about salmon and their ecosystems through classroom and outdoor activities provided by the NSEA.

Partnering with NSEA has been very rewarding. In some years, our fourth graders have planted seedlings along Fishtrap Creek. It is wonderful to now see some of those seedlings at 15-20 feet tall. My students are making a difference! —CAROLYNN DAVIS, TEACHER, BERNICE VOSSBECK ELEMENTARY

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:
12

ACTIVE PROJECTS:
26

17k



trees planted in riparian areas

10k

hours contributed by volunteers

NOOKSACK

Featured Partner: George Boggs, Whatcom Cons. District

By George Boggs

The Whatcom Conservation District and its federal partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, have worked with the NSEA since its inception. The NSEA is our closest, most dependable partner in advancing fish enhancement projects on private land; they have a prominent role in every habitat enhancement grant we pursue. Crossing and instream works like re-meandering and woody debris placement are typical examples of the kinds of work we've done together.

The NSEA's volunteer and outreach events awaken and feed the passion of our community for its natural resources. By educating youth there is hope that these values will grow in our community and sustain recovery into the future.

For me, the most striking representation of positive change that NSEA has effected was the breach of the Terrell Creek dam. It was the culmination of over a decade of work to improve the system, crossing by crossing. To see those fish swimming over what had been a blockage for over half a century was thrilling. NSEA validates the words of Calvin Coolidge that "persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

NSEA inspires enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the labor of salmon recovery. When St. Peter examines me at the gates of heaven for my shortcomings, I will at least be able to point to my small contributions in support of NSEA, which has protected and enhanced one of God's most wonderful creations.



George Boggs, Executive Director, Whatcom Conservation District

NSEA is more than an effective fish enhancement organization. It is the heart and soul of ecosystem recovery efforts in WRIA 1.

—GEORGE BOGGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.


OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Anderson Creek, Jones	Replaced 2 barrier culverts with 40'X12' bridge and weir. Resloped banks and installed 80' of roughened channel.
	Bertrand Creek, Sebring	Installed 2 large woody debris (LWD) structures; resloped/planted 100' of bank.
	Butler/ Terrell Creek, Forss	Replaced partial barrier bridge with 30'X20' bridge. Removed upstream and downstream culverts and bank armoring.
	Tenmile Creek, Hawley	Replaced fish passage barrier culvert with 50'X18' bridge.
	Maple Creek, Gehling	Replaced failing bridge with 5'X45'X34" foot bridge.
	Middle Fork Nooksack, Uyeyama	Installed 4 LWD structures, resloped and planted streambank.
	Middle Fork Nooksack, Moore	Installed 5 LWD structures, resloped and planted streambank.
	Silver Creek, Bennet	Replaced fish passage barrier culvert with 40'X12' bridge.
	Squalicum Creek, Morgenthaler	Replaced fish passage barrier culvert with 40'X12' bridge.
	Terrell Creek, Kostanoski	Installed 12 LWD structures, 40'X10' bridge, and added 300 yards of spawning gravel.
	Terrell Creek, Louveau	Replaced fish passage barrier culvert with 35'X12' bridge, 2 LWD structures, and spawning gravel; removed invasives and added native plants.
	Landingstrip, Whatcom Land Trust	Native planting & protection.
	Site Maintenance	20.66 acres.
	Stream Stewards	61 Community Work Parties, 1,845 volunteers, 5,335 hours donated, 10,378 plants.
	Remote Site Incubator	50,000 chum salmon incubated in Terrell Creek.
	Students for Salmon (Elementary School)	47 classes, 1,101 students, 451 trees planted.
	Middle School Service Learning	4 classes, 133 students, 1,860 trees planted.
	Swimming Upstream (High School)	2 schools, 148 students.
	Spawner Surveys	16 creeks, 11 creek miles, 21 reaches.
	Windward High School Water Quality Monitoring	30 students, sampled 4 sites, 10 times.
	Cain Creek Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring	Sample 8 sites once per month.
	CATS Program	CATS Program Manager worked with other RFEs to implement 3 CATS programs.
	Nooksack River Stewards Program	2,002 contacts, 53 presentations.
	Events/ Tabling/ Booths	3 main events, 750 people, 30 additional outreach events.
	Community Presentations	73 presentations, 1,460 people.
	Internship Program (college and beyond)	44 interns provided 3,010 hours of service.
	WCC Crew	One WCC crew provided 10,200 hours of service focused on restoration projects.
	AmeriCorps Program	Three members served 5,100 hours: monitoring, education, and restoration.

For 25 years, our Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group program has protected and rebuilt our salmon habitats. This is often painstaking work, everything from extensive water assessments, to counting the salmon that return to spawn, to clearing passage in streams. These dedicated volunteers and stakeholders involved in the coalition have rolled up their sleeves to create a healthy and survivable environment for our treasured salmon, and are doing their part to preserve an important and special element of life in the Pacific Northwest.

—US REPRESENTATIVE DENNY HECK, WASHINGTON'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT





“Salmon are part of our culture and economy in Washington state. That’s why I am fighting to protect and restore healthy salmon populations to benefit our waters and quality jobs in our region. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups have been a key partner in bringing folks together to make sure our salmon will still be around for future generations.

—US REPRESENTATIVE DEREK KILMER, WASHINGTON’S 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NORTH OLYMPIC

PORT HADLOCK PORT TOWNSEND CHIMACUM SEQUIM PORT ANGELES JOYCE
SEKIU CLALLAM BAY

Mount Baker from Dungeness Spit

“The Salmon Coalition has a proven track record of quality salmon habitat restoration projects throughout the region and fills a critical role in Clallam County. The Salmon Coalition’s work is an essential complement to our efforts to protect important habitat.

—TOM SANFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH OLYMPIC LAND TRUST

OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION (THE SALMON COALITION)** IS TO RESTORE, ENHANCE, AND PROTECT THE HABITAT OF NORTH OLYMPIC PENINSULA WILD SALMON STOCKS AND TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM, UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION, AND STEWARDSHIP OF THESE RESOURCES.

Featured Project: Dungeness River Riparian Recovery

The Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project, in partnership with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, aims to remove invasive species from the Dungeness River and restore the floodplain forest with native trees and shrubs.

This past year, the Salmon Coalition worked with 28 landowners and surveyed 150 acres of the Dungeness River for butterfly bush and knotweed. In total, 27.3 acres were treated and removed of noxious weeds.

The Coalition seeded riverbank lupine, fireweed, and alder and

staked willows throughout the fall of 2015.

The Salmon Coalition continues efforts to reach remaining landowners through targeted outreach and community educational events within the watershed.

The Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project exemplifies the importance of Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in gathering community and landowner support for watershed stewardship in the region.



Planting trees along the Dungeness River

Emily Larson, volunteer, and Kendra Krantz, Washington Conservation Corps intern, planting trees as part of the Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project. Photo by Lindsey Aspelund.

The Salmon Coalition brings a great deal of expertise on watershed revitalization, including assessment and planning for invasive removal and replanting of native species. —FEIRO MARINE LIFE CENTER, COALITION PARTNER

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

12

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

04

15k



trees planted in riparian areas

4,729

hours contributed by volunteers

NORTH OLYMPIC

Featured Partner: Eaglemount Farms

By Norm Norton & Ellen O'Shea

Eaglemount Farms partnered with the Salmon Coalition to remove invasive grass from Chimacum Creek and plant native plants to open up the natural channel of the creek so that salmon and other fish can once again spawn in the creek. Community members and volunteers from the Washington State Conservation Corps (WCC) worked to replace invasive plants with hundreds of native plants, a large portion of which were donated by the Salmon Coalition.

The Salmon Coalition also provided knowledge of the habitat along Chimacum Creek. That insight, combined with valuable information from the Xerces Society (invertebrate conservation), enabled us to choose native plants that would shade out invasive Reed Canary Grass, provide habitat and food for wild salmon and other fish in Chimacum Creek, and provide

habitat for native pollinators and other invertebrates (which often become food for the fish).

The Salmon Coalition respected the boundaries of the organic farm by not using herbicides to complete the work. They understood the vision of our farm to conduct "nature-friendly farming."

We had great concern about the welfare of the amphibians and invertebrates who call Chimacum Creek home. Those animals include two species of salamanders, red-legged frogs, Pacific chorus frogs, and western toad and numerous dragonflies and wild pollinators. There are also communities of martins, wild ducks, geese, blue herons, many other wild birds, deer, bear, and cougar present.

The Salmon Coalition and project volunteers were vigilant about



Norm Norton & Ellen O'Shea

Eaglemount Farms received help from the Salmon Coalition to replace invasive plants on their lands with native plants. Photo by Joel Rogers.

protecting wildlife on our farm and also protecting our organic crops by not using chemicals.

The Salmon Coalition has done a stupendous job. The Eaglemount Farms project was well-organized and attracted dozens of community member volunteers in addition to the Salmon Coalition and WCC team.

The plants are so vigorous that they survived a months-long drought and more than doubled in size. The creek channel is widening and we hope that it will soon become viable habitat for wild salmon and other fish.

—NORM NORTON AND ELLEN O'SHEA, OWNERS, EAGLEMOUNT FARMS

North Olympic Salmon Coalition

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring



Lower Discovery Bay Restoration - Maynard Nearshore Restoration

2,000 feet of shoreline restored. Hood Canal summer chum salmon and spawning forage fish (sand lance and surf smelt).



Waterline Relocation and Shoreline Restoration

15 years of planning and working with stakeholders to make the project happen. Project cost: \$2 million +



Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project

2,785 trees planted. 4,000 feet of stream restored. Partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to remove invasive species and restore the floodplain with native trees and shrubs. Nearly 50% of the 140 river landowners have agreed to remove invasive species and plant native trees on their property.



Jefferson County Riparian Project

11,995 trees planted. 6,500 feet of stream restored. The project, funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, has a goal to plant 50 acres of riparian habitat in Jefferson County by 2017.



CATS Program

A collaboration among 7 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups. Students in the Olympic Peninsula class came from as far west as Port Angeles and as far south as Lacey for 15 class sessions and field trips led by experts in various environmental fields.



Salmon Coalition Education Program

2,758 people educated. Providing students and adults in Clallam and Jefferson counties with hands-on, real-world educational opportunities through invasive removal, tree planting, and project monitoring.

Below: Andy McGregor and Bob Fukano remove scale samples from an ESA-listed summer chum salmon during chum spawner surveys. Photo by Charles Espey.





PACIFIC COAST

FORKS CLEARWATER NEAH BAY AND OTHER SMALL COASTAL TOWNS ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

OUR MISSION

PACIFIC COAST SALMON COALITION (PCSC) IS A GRASSROOTS, NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER-BASED ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN LOCAL VOLUNTEER-BASED HABITAT RESTORATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY SALMON RESOURCE WITHIN OUR REGION.

Featured Project: Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration

The Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration project is a multiphase effort to restore the majority of blockages on a significant fish-bearing tributary of the Clearwater River in Jefferson County.

Throughout the project's three phases, PCSC has worked with the landowner to remove barrier culverts and associated fill, replace them with larger culverts or bridges, and reshape surrounding land to its natural grade.

A section of roadway was also decommissioned and the entire area replanted with native

vegetation. Wood and rock were added downstream to minimize stream regrade and to provide fish access through the project site under all flow conditions. The purpose is to open up previously inaccessible salmon habitat.

In total, this work has taken place on just over five miles of stream, comprising several miles of valuable salmon spawning, rearing, and overwintering habitat.

The species that will benefit from the Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration work are coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.



Students replanting at Christmas Creek

In order to open up several miles of valuable coho, steelhead, and cutthroat habitat, PCSC worked with a local landowner to restore fish passage in Christmas Creek, a tributary of the Clearwater River.

PCSC has been able to bring several organizations and individuals together to complete the majority of habitat projects in the Christmas Creek drainage to everyone's satisfaction, enhancing the working relationship between groups for future efforts.

—KYLE WILLIAMS, RAYONIER, PCSC PROJECT PARTNER

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

09

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

18

12k



fish released

10k

carcasses returned to streams (pounds)

PACIFIC COAST

Featured Partner: Patty Vaughn, High School Teacher

By Patty Vaughn

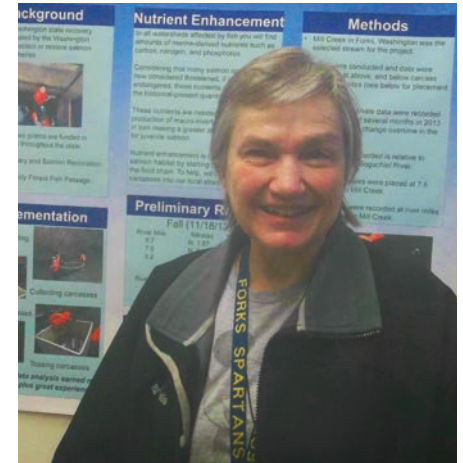
As a Forks Alternative School teacher, I have worked with PCSC for 15 years on several different types of projects. These have included enhancement projects like hatchery spawning and nutrient enhancement; habitat improvements such as erosion control, woody debris placement and culvert replacement; community outreach efforts like food bank collection, and preparation for the Forks Annual Kids Fishing Derby.

PCSC is unique in that they utilize student volunteers for an incredibly wide variety of watershed projects, allowing students to learn new skills that would have been impossible in a classroom setting.

One project that provided tremendous returns is the Warner

Creek/Mill Creek project. My science class has monitored water quality in local streams since 1994. Fish passage from Mill Creek to Warner Creek was blocked by erosion. PCSC built a stair-step ramp that reduced the slope and improved flow rates into Mill Creek at Russell Road. Since then, my class has surveyed Warner Creek and found all species of fish upstream. In addition, the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates has greatly increased because of the nutrient enhancement done by PCSC.

The quality of projects produced by students who work with PCSC are a step above all other Forks Alternative School presentations. All of the students are excited about their volunteer service and benefit to our community.



Patty Vaughn stands in front of her students' projects

My students have pursued careers in fisheries and natural resources because of the experience that they gained through volunteering with PCSC. Students have graduated from high school because of this program. There is literally no way to express what a great program the PCSC is! —PATTY VAUGHN, TEACHER, FORKS ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

 Borde Pond	Augmenting existing coho run in Mill Creek. Partnership with a private landowner (Kyle Weakley) and WDFW.
 Lake Creek	Removed old dock from channel where it was leaching small styrofoam beads.
 Colby Creek	Remove 4 undersized, velocity barrier culverts and replace them with an appropriately sized bridge to improve fish passage and instream habitat. 4.1 miles of spawning and rearing habitat opened.
 Hoh RR (Noxious Weeds)	Remove noxious weeds and replant to reestablish native plant growth, over several miles of Hoh River.
 Outreach & Education	Field trips to Sol Duc for 2nd and 6th graders. Students conducted water quality testing along Mill Creek. 18 students in senior culminating projects, 28 students in our natural resources programs, and 13 interns.
 Monitoring & Maintenance	Monitoring 42 WDFW sites along with 24 of our old project sites for effectiveness and utilization and any projects that may require small changes to maintain passage and function.
 Nutrient Enhancement	Placement of 10,419 carcasses from Bogachiel and Sol Duc back into the Quilluete system. 3,794 fish to the local food bank.
 Goodman Creek Assessment	Assessment phase completed summer 2014. Database created to input collected information for assessment to start the process of creating a prioritized list of future restoration projects.
 Donkey Creek Culvert	Assessment and redesign of blockage consisting of three side-by-side concrete culverts. When finished, will provide access to more than 1,200 square meters of spawning habitat and nearly 3,000 square meters of rearing habitat.
 NF Calawah Culvert Replacement	Replacing undersized, deteriorating culvert with properly sized culvert. New culvert will decrease significantly the likelihood that sediment and wood debris, generated during storms, will plug the inlet causing water to pond behind it and eventually causing road fill to slough into north fork.
 Sands Creek Drainage Culvert Replacement	Replace undersized culvert with 80-foot bridge, regrade stream bank, and rehabilitate stream bed in an effort to return the stream to a natural state and allow access to the 1.25 miles of spawning and rearing habitat above the blockage.
 Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration, Phase II	Removal of 2 culverts and 1 culvert replacement. 26-foot bridge installed. This project opened more than 2 miles of stream.
 NF Calawah Road Decommissioning	The N.F. Calawah Road Decommissioning project will decommission just under a mile of road on USDA Forest Service ownership, the O20 spur of FS 2922, just above N.F. Calawah River in Clallam County. Purpose of the decommissioning is to stabilize identified unstable section of road above N.F. Calawah River. This will reduce or eliminate the potential for sediment and debris flows into the N.F. Calawah that would disrupt and destroy critical salmon habitat.
 Christmas Creek Phase III	In summer 2014, undersized culvert with 4-foot outfall drop replaced with 60-foot bridge, that opened 1+ mile of spawning habitat.
 Dickey Camp Pond	Restore crucial overwintering habitat in the Dickey River watershed in Clallam County, restore connection between Dickey Camp Pond and Skunk Creek, and create new outlet channel to Skunk Creek, which will raise pond to its original height and allow for unrestricted fish passage.
 Miller Creek Culvert Replacement	Removing undersized barrier culvert and replace with 60' bridge. Replacement will open 1+ miles of habitat in Miller Creek, a tributary of the Clearwater River. Currently in design phase.
 Haehule Culvert Replacement	Along with landowner Green Crow, remove two barrier culverts that are together resulting in one blockage. Replace with 60' bridge. Replacement will open 1.2 miles of habitat to salmonids in Haehule Creek. Currently in design phase.
 Squaw Creek Culvert Replacement	Along with landowner Rayonier Inc., remove two barrier culverts that are together resulting in one blockage. Replace them with 60' bridge. Replacement will open 3.5 miles of habitat in Squaw Creek, tributary of Dickey River. Currently in design phase.

SKAGIT

MOUNT VERNON ANACORTES BURLINGTON SEDRO WOOLLEY CONCRETE
HAMILTON WHIDBEY ISLAND SAN JUAN ISLANDS



OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP (SFEG)** IS TO EDUCATE AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN HABITAT RESTORATION AND WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP TO ENHANCE WILD SALMONIDS.

Featured Project: Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration

Thatcher Bay is located on Blakely Island in the San Juan Islands and was the site of a wood milling operation from 1879 to 1942.

During this time, mill waste in the form of sawdust and wood chips was disposed of in the intertidal area. As a result, wood chips in the upper intertidal area had completely buried substrates suitable for forage fish spawning. Lower in the intertidal area, the wood waste was releasing sulfide, a natural byproduct of wood decomposition, at levels that were toxic to benthic flora and fauna.

The primary goal of this project was to improve natural processes and habitat function of the nearshore habitat.

This goal was accomplished by removing over 11,600 cubic yards of wood waste covering 1.8 acres of valuable nearshore habitat and replacing the wood waste with 11,600 cubic yards of natural substrate matching the adjacent intertidal conditions.

Quarterly monitoring of the restoration site, accomplished with the assistance of partners like the Samish Indian Nation, has shown that the project has resulted in restored forage fish spawning habitat on the beach and restored intertidal areas to improve benthic flora and fauna habitat.



Restoring nearshore habitat

An excavator staged on a barge removes wood waste from the shoreline area of Blakely Island in order to restore important habitat for forage fish spawning.

The Samish Nation values our ongoing partnership with SFEG. This important work is never accomplished in isolation; through partnerships such as these, our collective reach is widened and the impacts are more enduring. —CHRISTINE WOODWARD, SAMISH INDIAN NATION

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

29

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

33

26k



trees planted in riparian areas

11k

participants reached via hands-on education & events

SKAGIT

Featured Partner: Jack Middleton, SFEG Volunteer

By Jack Middleton

I have been volunteering with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group for many years. I was initially interested after hearing stories of all the wonderful projects the group was doing: removing fish barriers, designing and constructing in-stream woody debris, planting riparian buffers, potting nursery stock, and conducting spawning surveys.

I began by volunteering at planting parties and to do nursery potting. It is great fun and camaraderie!

I really like the Junior Stream Stewards program for seventh and eighth graders. Twenty local classrooms are visited monthly with educational programs on watersheds, water quality, native plants, salmon life cycle and habitat, and restoration activities.

I began participating in the fall salmon return and water quality field trips, and the spring planting service projects. It's great to get the kids outside!

What I find the most rewarding and inspiring is to plant a tree with a kid. Some kids have never had the opportunity to work a shovel or dig a hole. It's not only the mechanics of planting that are important, but also the experience of standing back, admiring our work, and seeing that we are part of a larger team; that together we are turning this field edge into a stream-side forest buffer.

The tree gets liberated from its nursery pot, the salmon get clean water and shade, the students realize that their trees will grow much bigger than they are, and they feel a part of their own future.



Volunteer Jack Middleton with Edison students

Jack Middleton teaching Edison School eighth graders how to measure pH as part of SFEG Junior Stream Stewards Education Program.

SFEG is unique in its ability to partner with landowners in our watershed, private and public alike. They always incorporate education into what they are doing, so landowners learn about salmon and take ownership and stewardship of their land. —JACK MIDDLETON, SFEG VOLUNTEER

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

 Native Plant Nursery	8,000 plants from the SFEG nursery were installed at restoration sites. 710.5 volunteer hours cared for nursery plants including potting 4,000 new plants.
 Junior Stream Stewards	529 students from 5 Skagit County schools planted trees at 5 sites in Skagit and Samish watersheds.
 Salmon in the Classroom	91 students raised 1,000 coho eggs, releasing 100 fry into Carpenter and Trumpeter Creeks. 15 volunteers provided hatchery tours for 995 members of the public.
 Spawner Survey Volunteer Monitoring	545.5 volunteer hours were put into spawner surveys, vegetation monitoring, and juvenile fish sampling surveys.
 Samish Watershed Revegetation	10.6 acres planted in partnership with 14 landowners on properties where knotweed has been removed through a partnership with the Samish Indian Nation.
 Fish America - Edgewater Park	Site visits, planning and site preparation for volunteer events. 5.5 acres of riparian area restored.
 Starbird Creek Fish Passage	Culvert removed and replaced with 50-foot bridge to restore fish passage. 130 plants planted.
 Skrinde Creek Fish Passage	Replaced culvert with 40-foot bridge to restore fish passage.
 McElroy Monitoring	26 volunteers at 11 fish sampling events donated 98 hours.
 Vegetation Monitoring	9 volunteers trained. Monitored vegetation at 11 sites and collected data on health, height, and density of plantings, primarily at sites with little or no funding for monitoring.
 Cornet Bay Revegetation	Weeded, watered, and monitored a 1-acre shoreline planting located in Deception Pass State Park. Planted 1,613 new plants in the project to replace plants affected by deer browse and mortality.
 Deception Pass State Park	Completed planting plans.
 Lower Day Creek Slough	Replaced 3 undersized culverts with 60-foot recycled railcar bridge. Planted 12.5 additional acres with 4,791 native trees and shrubs along Lower Day Creek Slough.
 Utopia Revegetation	3,380 plants installed over 6.6 acres with 300 feet of slough frontage. 47 volunteers. 4 bat boxes and 2 duck nesting boxes installed. Blackberries treated on 4.5 acres.
 Finney Creek Monitoring	Monitored temperature at two locations in the Finney Creek drainage.
 Stewardship Program with City Light	18 stewardship properties visited. 13 properties had restoration work performed.
 Anderson Creek	Removed weeds around plants, treated for invasives, discarded broken plant protectors.
 Newhalem Weeds	Restore 20+ acres of riparian habitat to control invasive plants and revegetate sites with native plants. Collected baseline monitoring data at 4 plots to track success of the project.
 South Fork Side Channels	Fish sampling documented juvenile salmonids, including Chinook utilized these backwater channels to the Skagit. 17 volunteers put in 97+ hours.
 Clean Water Program	Fish sampling showed that juvenile salmonids, including Chinook, utilized these backwater channels to the Skagit. 17 volunteers put in 97+ hours.
 Thomas Creek Channel Improvements	5 large woody debris clumps assembled and installed in the backflow habitat, to provide off-channel rearing grounds for juvenile salmonids. 740 trees and shrubs planted; 335 live stakes.
 Kids in Creeks	8 schools participated in watershed-based service learning. 747 6th graders learned the salmon life cycle at the 6th Grade Conservation Tour at Pomona Grange Park.
 Natural Resource Stewardship Program	Completed 3 new riparian planting projects in Samish watershed; monitored 26 sites.
 Davis Slough Fish Passage	Installed new bridge on South Skagit Highway with Skagit County to restore fish passage into Davis Slough.
 Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration	Restored 1.8 acres of nearshore habitat by removing 11,600 cubic yards of woodwaste from the intertidal area, and replacing with clean natural sediment.
 Day Creek Slough Side Channel Improvements	Designed and installed 6 large woody debris log structures in side channel of the Skagit River. Maintenance on 10.9 acres of plantings in the Day Creek watershed. Replaced 237 dead trees and planted 200 more trees.
 Hobbit Corners	2,525 plants installed over 6.41 acres. Invasive species treated on 9.24 acres. Design plans finalized for in-stream wood beaver assist structures to be placed next year.
 Pressentin Park Feasibility	Installed 3 in-situ data collection probes and 2 surface elevation probes to monitor groundwater movement. Worked with partners to develop preliminary designs for restoration of a relic side channel through the park.
 Howard Miller Park Revegetation	500 trees installed; 3.2 acres maintained from previous plantings.
 Scheer/Fontana Revegetation	SFEG, a WCC crew, and a corrections crew from Whatcom County Sheriff's office cleared 8 acres of invasive plants in the USFS restoration planting.
 Pressentin Ranch Revegetation	Volunteer planting to install native plants on 2 acres.
 Hough Revegetation	With the help of county corrections crew, mowed and grubbed blackberries with young trees. Blackberries treated with herbicide and killed back. Crews cut and treated laurel, holly, ivy, and other non-native invasive species. A new area, just east of where Jackman Creek flows into the Skagit main stem, was treated for blackberries and planted with bare root trees. A culverted stream crossing under HWY 20 was surveyed for possible daylighting of what could be nearly 300 feet of renewed habitat.
 Habitat Work Schedule	Worked with the Lead Entity to ensure all watershed projects were up-to-date in project tracking tool.
 Upper Skagit Knotweed Control	Surveyed 53.8 river miles and 22 tributary miles documenting presence of invasive knotweed. Since 2001, 86% of all knotweed patches have been eliminated through this program.



SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS

EVERETT SNOHOMISH EDMONDS LYNNWOOD LAKE STEVENS ARLINGTON
DARRINGTON DUVALL NORTH BEND CARNATION FALL CITY MONROE SULTAN
MILL CREEK MUKILTEO MARYSVILLE GRANITE FALLS STANWOOD
CAMANO ISLAND CLINTON LANGLEY FREELAND

OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS (SSS)** IS TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF SALMON IN THE STILLAGUAMISH, SNOHOMISH, AND ISLAND COUNTY WATERSHEDS.

Featured Project: Watershed Ed for Decision Makers

Watershed Education for Decision Makers is a field-based education program that aims to improve elected officials' knowledge of natural resource management issues and solutions.

The objective of the program is to connect city council members, mayors, county council members, and state representatives with local resources to provide understanding of how their decisions impact water quality and salmon recovery, which will improve natural resource conservation and protection.

Participants visit a variety of sites including impaired habitat sites,

active restoration sites, completed restoration projects, and intact sites.

The curriculum is highly customized to be relevant to the place and to the person (including local data and figures).

Program development began in 2014 when SSS conducted interviews with local stakeholders, organizations, and elected officials.

Through their input, the curriculum was designed to be locally informed, audience relevant, concise, and engaging.



Site visits will include this eroding Pilchuck River pasture bank

Decision makers will tour sites like this actively eroding pasture bank on the Pilchuck River, which demonstrates the challenges to salmon recovery—and potential solutions—where land use, infrastructure, and habitat intersect.

66 Sound Salmon Solutions is an invaluable partner providing exceptional environmental education and on-the-ground habitat restoration.”

—MARLA KOBERSTEIN, ECOLOGIST II, ADOPT A STREAM FOUNDATION; SSS PARTNER

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

14

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

24

11k 

trees planted in riparian areas

5,820

hours contributed by volunteers

SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS

Featured Partner: Cindy Dittbrenner

By Cindy Dittbrenner

The Snohomish Conservation District is one of almost three thousand nationwide conservation districts that offer free help to residents to responsibly steward land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources. Our mission is to work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.

We have partnered with Sound Salmon Solutions in this mission for over 25 years on outreach events to landowners and the public, volunteer stream-side restoration plantings, and restoration projects such as culvert removals, large wood placement, and riparian revegetation. We work closely with SSS to develop projects that involve landowners and the public in stewarding their land to support salmon recovery.

Sound Salmon Solutions maintains and

cultivates relationships with a broad cross-section of the communities in our watersheds, engaging them in the work of salmon recovery through interactive and hands-on education and volunteer restoration events. We often tap into their large and enthusiastic volunteer base to support our projects. It's this frequent engagement through education and volunteer restoration that helps foster a sense of community around environmental stewardship.

The Shellfish Dinner is an annual event that SSS started three years ago that draws over a hundred community members in the Stillaguamish River watershed interested in improving water quality for salmon. Local food producers contribute shellfish and produce from the watershed, which are transformed by a local chef into a multicourse meal offered for free to the public. While guests enjoy the sumptuous locally sourced fare, speakers talk about what landowners



Cindy Dittbrenner

Cindy has collaborated with SSS on volunteer riparian planting projects in the Woods Creek watershed, providing service learning opportunities to local Scout troops, college and high school students, and watershed residents.

can do to preserve and improve the quality of the water that supports farming, shellfish, and salmon. Sound Salmon Solutions has done an excellent job of creating an exciting educational event that celebrates success and encourages further action.

I know I can rely on Sound Salmon Solutions to be flexible and highly professional partners at all levels of our shared work: education, outreach, volunteer management, restoration implementation, and site maintenance.

—CINDY DITTBRENNER, NAT. RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER, SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

 Jim Creek Restoration	150 feet of bank armoring removed; replaced by 4 engineered log jams.
 Jim Creek Restoration	2,000 feet of Jim Creek addressed (work done on both right and left bank): 920 conifers, 120 deciduous, 1,025 shrubs. 2,200 linear feet of exclusion fence installed.
 Tolt RM4	3 acres maintained.
 Tolt Restoration at Camp River Ranch	5,280 linear feet of the Tolt River addressed: 316 conifers, 84 deciduous, 403 shrubs. Butterfly bush and scotchbroom removal on 3.5 acres.
 Upper Tychman	2,640 linear feet of Tychman Slough addressed: no planting in this fiscal year, only last year of maintenance on 2 acres.
 Tychman Slough Restoration	Maintenance on 2.75 acres along Tychman Slough in the Skykomish system.
 Snoqualmie Mainstem and Cherry Creek Bank Restoration	1,250 linear feet of Snoqualmie River addressed: 250 conifers, 110 shrubs.
 McCormick Park Community Restoration	300 linear feet addressed: 98 conifers, 70 deciduous, 182 shrubs.
 Catherine Creek Riparian Restoration and Education	435 linear feet addressed: 200 conifers, 100 shrubs.
 Stillwater Wildlife Area Phase III	4.3 acres ~ 3,000 linear feet addressed. Blackberry mowed and sprayed (twice).
 Tolt River Survey and Restoration	3 miles of Tolt River surveyed for knotweed and butterfly bush.
 Waterwheel Creek Riparian Restoration	4,000 linear feet addressed (both banks-2000 on each side): 805 deciduous trees, 1,594 shrubs, 150 emergents planted in 2015 fiscal year.
 Stilly Youngren	1,140 linear feet addressed. Knotweed sprayed along the Stillaguamish bank.
 Catherine Creek II	5 acres/1,806 linear feet (both sides total) addressed along Catherine Creek: 350 conifers, 512 deciduous trees, 2,938 shrubs planted.
 Salmon Stewards	Salmon Stewards supported the education program. Volunteer Hours: 1,354, Students: 567, Adults: 86
 Citizen Action Training School	Our CATS program had 21 graduates.
 Social Marketing for Riparian Landowners	Program reached 51 landowners and resulted in the planting of 79 trees on properties smaller than 1 acre adjacent to streams.
 Community Connections for Salmon	Program enabled SSS to reach over 1,000 community members through 24 community outreach events.
 Don't Drip and Drive	Program enabled SSS to test 236 vehicles for leaks and provide incentives to fix the leaks.
 Be the Solution 2014	Coordinated a free dinner event for 140 guests to raise awareness about water quality problems and solutions.
 Watershed Detectives	Program enabled SSS to reach 732 students with environmental education curriculum.
 Watershed Education for Decision Makers	Developed a foundational watershed education program curriculum for elected officials and decision makers.
 Skykomish REYS	Planning an education program for students in the Skykomish School District. This project will also install interpretive signs along a trail.
 Riparian Solutions	Program enabled SSS to conduct site visits, provide technical assistance and develop new restoration projects.



SOUTH PUGET SOUND

TACOMA OLYMPIA SHELTON GIG HARBOR

Commencement Bay

66 The SPSSEG is essentially the only organization in South Sound whose mission consists solely of environmental restoration and education. The lack of a political agenda outside of their core mission places the group in a unique position to be the public face for restoration.

—SCOTT STELTZNER, SPSSEG PARTNER

OUR MISSION

SOUTH PUGET SOUND SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP (SPSSEG) HELPS SALMON FROM “THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SOUND.” WE HAVE ALL SEVEN SPECIES OF PACIFIC SALMON THROUGHOUT OUR SERVICE AREA AND AIM TO PROTECT ALL OF THEM THROUGH HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Featured Project: Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail

The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail first opened in 2000 and since that time has provided a unique opportunity to watch spawning chum salmon in their natural habitat.

The trail has 11 viewpoints and teaches visitors about salmon and environmental stewardship through a series of interpretive signs along the trail.

During the week, volunteer docents lead field trips for local students. On the weekends, the docents provide information and answer questions about the fish that spawn here every year.

Nearly five thousand people visited the trail last year to learn more about the salmon life cycle and observe chum spawning and courting behaviors. The half-mile trail is almost entirely ADA accessible. The trail traverses riparian areas and pleasant second-growth lowland forest.

The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail was developed by South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and Taylor United Shellfish Company, with generous cooperation and assistance from many other entities through grants and donations.



A Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail docent with student visitors

SPSSEG hosts thousands of visitors annually at Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail to observe the iconic salmon in its natural environment. With a wide array of supporters and volunteers, the trail is destined to continue for many years.

SPSSEG is pleased to coordinate such a wonderful and unique salmon education trail for our community to enjoy. It is inspiring to teach students of all ages about the importance of salmon to our ecosystem and to the South Sound. —JOHN ROSENBERG, SPSSEG BOARD PRESIDENT

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

06

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

39

7k



trees planted in riparian areas

6k

participants reached via hands-on education & events

SOUTH PUGET SOUND

Featured Partner: Ashley Van Essen, Nisqually Tribe

By Ashley Van Essen

I have had the opportunity to work with SPSSEG as a staff person for the Nisqually River Council and its associated programs, including the Nisqually River Education Project (NREP). My work began with habitat restoration as part of the Lower Ohop Restoration Project. This partnership, between SPSSEG, Nisqually Indian Tribe (NIT), and NREP, meant that students of the Nisqually Watershed had the opportunity to plant thousands of trees in the Ohop Valley, while learning the benefits of habitat restoration and its effect on salmon populations.

In my new role as the NIT Lead Entity Coordinator, I've been involved in many SPSSEG restoration efforts in the Nisqually watershed. I assist as they apply for salmon recovery funding dollars and develop and manage

large-scale restoration projects.

Lower Ohop Restoration Phase III definitely stands out. This project was significant because of its high priority in the Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan and for the amount of habitat it created, and also for the floodplain it reconnected. SPSSEG Project Manager Brian Combs, along with other staff, played a major part in making this project a huge success.

SPSSEG staff are skilled and experienced. We know that when they take on a project, the job will not only get done, but it will be done with charge and passion. On top of that, their work is highly efficient, detailed, and well planned. One can tell that their team works very well together, communicates regularly, and are always there for one another. I believe this has a huge effect on the success of any organization.



The Lower Ohop restoration work in progress

The Ohop Creek Project will provide a lasting legacy for fish and people for decades, even centuries. Generations of people in local communities will witness and engage as the 2.4-mile restored stream develops into new habitat and a new floodplain forest is born.

I feel privileged to be able to work with such an incredible group of hard-working, knowledgeable, and dependable individuals. Partnerships and collaboration are highly valued in the Nisqually basin and SPSSEG staff are definitely team players. —ASHLEY VAN ESSEN, NISQUALLY TRIBE

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OUR PROJECTS

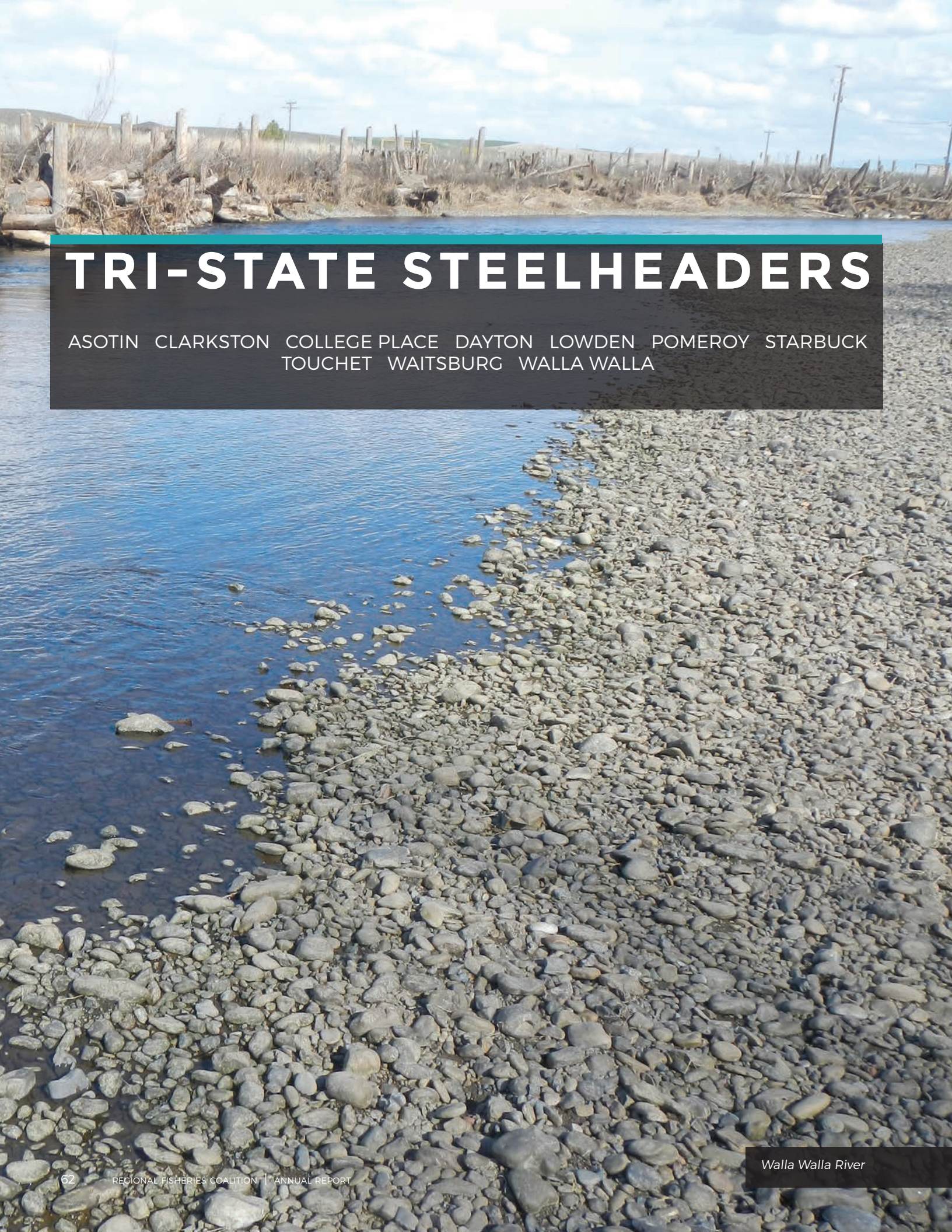
 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

	Outreach and Education	10,000 people educated.
	Dev Clearwater LWD	Clearwater match.
	Case Inlet	600 feet of shoreline restored.
	Clearwater Road	1.5 miles of floodplain road removed.
	Clearwater	Clearwater match.
	Middle Goldsborough	0.5 miles of stream opened.
	Like's Creek	1.5 miles of stream opened.
	King County CMG Greenwater	1 mile of stream restored.
	Greenwater Phase 3	1 mile of stream restored.
	USDA Forest Service Greenwater III	1 mile of stream restored.
	Fil Lucy Bay	100 feet of shoreline restored.
	Ohop III	2 miles of stream restored.
	Lower Ohop III	2 miles of stream restored.
	Lower Ohop III	2 miles of stream restored.
	Lower Ohop III	2 miles of stream restored.
	Whiteman Cove	Design only grant.
	Whiteman Cove	Design only grant.
	Edgewater Beach	800 feet of shoreline restored.
	McLane Creek Riparian	300 trees planted, 200 feet of stream channel.
	Burfoot Bulkhead	500 feet.
	USFWS Burfoot Bulkhead	Burfoot match.
	Frank's Tidelands	Design only grant.
	Collier Boat Ramp	150 feet of shoreline restored.
	Earthcorps - Titlow	Titlow match.
	Titlow ESRP	Design only grant.
	South Prairie Creek PSAR	South prairie match.
	Lower McLane Creek	500 feet of stream treated.
	Pioneer Park	Design only grant.
	Mitigation	5,500 trees planted.
	Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail	5,000 people educated.
	Knoll Mitigation	Greenwater monitoring.
	Ohop Monitoring	3 Years of monitoring fish and plants.
	Sand Wand	200 feet of stream treated.
	S Prairie Creek - Puyallup	0.75 miles of stream treated.
	S Prairie Creek - Pierce County	0.75 miles of stream treated.
	Goldsborough Wetlands	Middle Goldsborough match.
	Upper Deschutes LWD Design	Design only grant.



TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS

ASOTIN CLARKSTON COLLEGE PLACE DAYTON LOWDEN POMEROY STARBUCK
TOUCHET WAITSBURG WALLA WALLA

OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF **TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS** IS TO RESTORE SUSTAINABLE POPULATIONS OF NATIVE SALMONIDS BY ENHANCING HABITAT, PROVIDING PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND PROMOTING RECREATIONAL ANGLING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Featured Project: Mill Creek Fish Passage

A flood control project completed in the 1940s on Mill Creek resulted in over seven miles of modified channel, including a two-mile section of concrete-lined channel running through downtown Walla Walla.

Upper Mill Creek has over 40 miles of good to high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Fish managers believe that Mill Creek should produce higher numbers of fish, and passage in the flood control channel was thought to be contributing to low production.

An assessment in 2009 found the concrete channel poses

complex, flow-dependent passage problems. At high flow, velocities are too high, and there are no resting areas. At low flow, the water is too shallow. This project removed existing concrete and replaced it with "roughness panels" and resting pools. Roughness provides a zone of swimmable velocities for adult summer steelhead, bull trout, and spring chinook. Resting pools provide low-velocity water where fish can recover energy.

The layout of channel baffles was also changed, providing backwatering that eliminates the depth problem. While these



Roughness panels will help improve fish passage

passage corrections will improve the number of spawning adults reaching upper Mill Creek, the project also addresses the spatial distribution component of recovery goals.

As project partners, the Steelheaders are well organized and responsive, always addressing issues and concerns of other partners and stakeholders. —RANDY GLAESER, DIRECTOR, WALLA WALLA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

05

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

04

2.54



miles of habitat enhanced or restored

655

participants reached via hands-on education & events

TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS

Featured Partner: Kooskookie Commons

By Judith Johnson

Kooskookie Commons partnered with the Tri-State Steelheaders and the Walla Walla County Conservation District for the Creating Urban Riparian Buffers (CURB) program beginning in 2008.

We conducted more than eighty riparian restoration projects, as well as outreach to local communities, landowners, and schools. We have also participated with the Tri-State Steelheaders on the eradication of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian Knotweed on urban and agricultural streams in the Walla Walla basin.

The CURB program provided excellent examples of how properly functioning riparian areas contribute to healthy streams for salmon restoration.

These highly visible projects in

many people's backyards and along streams at public and private schools and churches involved thousands of elementary, high school, and college students who became ambassadors for healthy streams in Walla Walla and many other places. The property owners also became ambassadors for promoting stream and salmon restoration.

Tri-State Steelheaders are well known for solving problems related to the restoration of salmon and other species.

They have a broad and diverse membership and a robust volunteer program; their youth programs raise awareness of the importance of healthy streams. Their annual fundraiser, a crab feed and auction, is a very popular and well-supported event to which the community looks forward each year.



CURB volunteers in action

The Creating Urban Riparian Buffers (CURB) program receives hundreds of hours of volunteer labor each year from local college students.

When all environmental organizations in Walla Walla have limited funding and few staff, we require friendly support and cooperation from each other. I am grateful that I can count on the Tri-State Steelheaders.

—JUDITH JOHNSON, KOOSKOOKIE COMMONS

Tri-State Steelheaders

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Walla Walla, WA 99362


Phone: 509.529.3543

Email: tssfish@tristatesteelheaders.com


Online: www.tristatesteelheaders.com


+ View Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

OUR PROJECTS

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring



Yellowhawk Barrier Removal

Yellowhawk Creek is a small tributary of Mill Creek important for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout. In this project, two rock weirs were constructed to backwater an irrigation dam, eliminating the passage barrier created by the dam.



Ireland Gulch Fish Passage

Two undersized culverts in the Touchet River headwater tributaries were found to be passage barriers for summer steelhead. One culvert was replaced by a ford, and the other was replaced with a properly sized bottomless arch culvert.



Mill Creek Passage - Reach Type 6

Work was completed on a 350-foot-long section of the Mill Creek flood channel to improve passage for steelhead, chinook, and bull trout.



Knotweed Control

Landowner outreach and education led to 0.85 acres of knotweed sprayed, at 21 sites.

Below: Whitman College students, with professor Bob Carson (left), planted cuttings and removed blackberries from Brewer Wetland.



RFECs are salmon's on-the-ground advocate and a smart public investment because they leverage every dollar efficiently through community support. RFECs mobilize landowners, scientists, agencies, funders, citizens, tribes, and neighbors to work together toward a common goal: restoring precious salmon habitat. The return the state gets on this investment is significant and incredibly efficient.

—WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR MIKE HEWITT, DISTRICT 16

WILLAPA BAY

TOKELAND RAYMOND MENLO SOUTH BEND NASELLE ILLWACO

Willapa Bay

THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PROJECTS
COMPLETED:
10

ACTIVE
PROJECTS:
09

450 hours contributed
by volunteers

826k  fish
released

OUR MISSION

THE **WILLAPA BAY REGIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP (WBRFEG)** IS DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF SALMON HABITAT AND SALMON SPECIES SURVIVAL THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON STATE'S PACIFIC COUNTY. OUR ORGANIZATION IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTEER-RUN.

Featured Project: Naselle River Reach Design

The Naselle River Salmon Restoration project brings together more than fifty landowners and citizens to improve salmon habitat in an important section of the Naselle River.

The area being addressed is lacking in functional riparian corridors, has eroding banks, is disconnected from the floodplain, and lacks the structures necessary for the natural formation of


features like pools, riffles, and glide habitats.

This project, a partnership with the Pacific Conservation District, will provide engineering recommendations and designs to improve fish habitat for five salmon species in all life cycles.

The design phase will ultimately lead to projects that will restore essential habitat processes in this stream reach.




Project Highlights

 Habitat Restoration

 Education & Outreach

 Enhancement

 Assessment & Monitoring

 **Naselle River Salmon Restoration**

Engineering recommendations and design to improve fish habitat for five salmon species.

 **Green Head Slough**

Remove barriers for fish travel from its tributaries down into the Willapa Bay Estuary.

 **Eight Remote Site Incubators**

North River: 300k coho, Mill Creek: 58k, Stringer Creek: 50k, Oxbow Creek: 50k, Salmon Creek: 100k coho, Russian Creek: 100k coho, Fleece Creek: 84,300 chum, Electric Creek: 84,300 chum.

Willapa Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

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Phone: 360.267.5244

Email: info@wbrfeg.org

Online: www.wbrfeg.org

+ View our Board of Directors and Staff lists on pages 74-75 of this Annual Report.

WASHINGTON'S RFEG PROGRAM CELEBRATES

25 YEARS



**A Message from Jim Unsworth, Director,
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife**

Over the past 25 years, RFEGs have played an immeasurable part in salmon recovery in Washington State.

Deteriorating culverts, outdated bridges, and other barriers block fish passage in many streams, which prevents salmon and steelhead from swimming upstream to their traditional spawning grounds. Fish passage is one element vital to salmon and steelhead recovery.

RFEGs resolve many fish passage barrier problems and are an active partner in supporting the public, state and local agencies, and restoration groups with their efforts across Washington State.

RFEGs complete a tremendous amount of work that would not be possible without the relationships they have within their communities. Individually their work is exemplary, collectively it is extraordinary.

—JIM UNSWORTH, DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

WDFW is proud to partner with the 14 RFEGs and the Regional Fisheries Coalition to assist in this effort.

RFEGs are unique in that they are community based but together have state-wide influence. Their work meets many of WDFW's goals, including protecting and conserving native fish, providing sustainable fishing experiences, promoting a healthy economy, and protecting community character.

We would like to extend a special thank-you to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program—a leader in voluntary, community-based stewardship for fish and wildlife conservation—has been a valued and committed supporter of Washington's RFEF program.

Thank you for your continued support.



THANK YOU TO OUR STATEWIDE
PARTNERS

- 10K Years Institute
- 501 Commons
- Adopt a Stream Foundation
- ALCOA Foundation
- Allen Elementary School
- American Fisheries Society
- American Forests
- American Girl
- Anacortes High School
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Program
- Bay View Elementary School
- Beachwatchers of Island County
- Bellingham Cold Storage
- Bellingham School District
- Bellingham Technical College
- Benton Conservation District
- Bingham Creek Hatchery
- Blaine School District
- Bogachiel Hatchery
- Boys & Girls Club of Puget Sound
- BP Cooperation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- CalPortland
- Camp River Ranch
- Capital Land Trust
- Cascade Job Corps
- Cascade Middle School
- Cascadia Environmental Science Center
- Central Klickitat Conservation District
- Central Washington University Interns & Volunteers
- Chaffee Family
- Chambers Clover Watershed Council
- Chelan Douglas Land Trust
- Cherry Point Refinery
- Chinook Enterprises
- Chums of Terrell Creek
- City of Arlington
- City of Bellingham
- City of Blaine
- City of Camas
- City of DuPont
- City of Ellensburg
- City of Ferndale
- City of Forks
- City of Gig Harbor
- City of Issaquah
- City of Lacey
- City of North Bonneville
- City of Olympia
- City of Richland
- City of Sammamish
- City of Tacoma
- City of Toutle
- City of Tumwater
- City of Union Gap
- City of Vancouver
- City of Washougal
- City of Yakima
- City of Yelm
- Clallam County
- Clallam County Noxious Weed Board
- Clallam County School District
- Clark Conservation District
- Clark County
- Clark Public Utilities
- Clark Skamania Fly Fishers
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Coastal Volunteer Partnership
- College Place Lion's Club
- Columbia Land Trust
- Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
- Colville Confederated Tribe
- Concrete Elementary School
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Conway Elementary School
- Cowlitz Conservation District
- Cowlitz County
- Cowlitz Tribe
- Davey Richmond
- Ducks Unlimited
- Earth Corps
- Eco Trust
- Economic Security Dept.
- (Americorps)
- Edison Elementary School
- Emerson Alternative High school
- Environmental Resources Management Foundation
- ESRI
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Everett School District
- Evergreen School District
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Farmer's Insurance
- Feiro Marine Life Center
- Ferndale School District
- Fidalgo Fly Fishers
- Fish America Foundation
- Fish First
- FishAmerica
- Forks Outfitters
- Forterra
- Fourth Corner Fly Fishers
- Garden Treasures Nursery and Organic Farm
- Grays Harbor County
- Green Crow
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- Green River Coalition
- Green/Duwamish/Central Puget Sound Watershed
- Hancock Timber Resource Company
- Hoh Tribe
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Icicle Fund
- Immaculate Conception Regional School
- Inter-Fluve, Waterfall Engineering
- Island County Marine Resources Committee
- Island County Public Works
- J.L. Patterson & Associates
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Jefferson Conservation District
- Jefferson County
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Jefferson Land Trust
- Jerry's Rentals
- Kalama Sportsman's Club
- King Conservation District
- King County
- King County Flood Control District
- Kitsap Community Foundation
- Kitsap County
- Kittitas Conservation District
- Kittitas Conservation Trust
- Kittitas Environmental Education Network
- Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue
- Kiwanis of North Mason
- Klickitat County Solid Waste
- Klickitat Lead Entity
- Kooskooskie Commons
- Kyle Weakley
- Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed
- Lewis Conservation District
- Lewis County
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Long Live the Kings
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Lower Columbia Fly Fishers
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Lynden School District
- Lyons Ferry Hatchery
- Makah Tribe
- Marblemount Hatchery
- Marilyn Lewis
- Marine Resources Committee
- Marysville School District
- Mason Conservation District
- Mason County
- McNary Fisheries Trust
- Meridian School District
- Metro Parks Tacoma
- Microsoft
- Mill Creek Work Group
- Mission Creek Correction Center

for Women
 Mount Baker School District
 Mount Vernon City Parks
 Mount Vernon High School
 Mountaineers Foundation
 Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
 Muckleshoot Tribe
 Narum Concrete Construction
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 National Forest Foundation
 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Nisqually Land Trust
 Nisqually Tribe
 Nooksack School District
 Nooksack Tribe
 North Cascades Institute
 North Cascades National Park
 North Central WA Community Foundation
 North Mason Boys & Girls Club
 North Mason School District
 North Olympic Land Trust
 North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity
 North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center
 North Yakima Conservation District
 Northwest Indian College
 Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
 Northwest Steelheaders
 Northwest Straits Foundation
 NW Fish Rescue
 Okanogan Conservation District
 Olympic College
 Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
 Ostenson Family
 Outdoor Youth Connections
 Pacific & Grays Harbor Conservation District
 Pacific County
 Pacific Shellfish Institute
 Padilla Bay Foundation
 Patagonia Foundation
 Patagonia World Trout Initiative
 Peninsula Trails Coalition
 Penn Cove Shell Fish
 Phillips Foundation
 Pierce County
 Pioneer Center North
 Point No Point Treaty Council
 Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
 Port of Grays Harbor
 Port of Kalama
 Port of Olympia
 Port of Port Townsend
 Port of Shelton
 Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
 Puget Sound Action Team
 Puget Sound Energy Foundation
 Puget Sound Partnership
 Puyallup Tribe
 Quillayute Valley School District
 Quinault Tribe
 Rayonier, Inc.
 Rose Foundation
 Royse Hydroseeding & Excavating
 Samish Hatchery
 Samish Indian Nation
 San Juan County
 San Juan Marine Resources Committee
 Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
 Schmand Family Trust
 Seattle City Light
 Shaw Family
 Shelton Skookum Rotary Foundation
 Skagit Bald Eagle Awareness Team
 Skagit Conservation District
 Skagit Coop Weed Management Area
 Skagit County Parks and Recreation
 Skagit County Public Works
 Skagit Land Trust
 Skagit River Salmon Festival
 Skagit River System Cooperative
 Skagit Valley College
 Skagit Watershed Council
 Skamania County
 Skamania Landing Owners Association
 Skokomish Tribe
 Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
 Snohomish Camano ECO Net
 Snohomish Conservation District
 Snohomish County Surface Water Management
 Snohomish Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization
 Snoqualmie Tribe
 Sol Duc hatchery
 Soundside Marineline Rescue Center
 South Kitsap Boys & Girls Club
 South Sound Fly Fishers
 Southwest Washington Anglers
 Squaxin Island Tribe
 Stewardship Partners
 Stillaguamish River Clean Water District
 Stillaguamish Tribe
 Suquamish Tribe
 Sustainable Connections
 Swan Lake Watershed Preservation Group
 Swinomish Tribal Community
 Taylor Shellfish
 The Kokanee Workgroup
 The Nature Conservancy
 The North Face
 Thurston County
 Toray USA
 Toutle School District
 Tributary Committee
 Trout Unlimited
 Underwood Conservation District
 University of Washington
 Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
 Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 U.S. Navy
 Vancouver School District
 Vancouver Water Resources Center
 Wahkiakum County
 Walla Walla Community College Water & Environmental Center
 Walla Walla County Conservation District
 Walla Walla County Public Works
 Walla Walla High School Green Club
 Walmart
 Washington Conservation Corps
 Washington Department of Agriculture
 Washington Department of Corrections
 Washington Department of Ecology
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Washington Department of Natural Resources
 Washington Department of Transportation
 Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
 Washington Service Corps
 Washington State Parks
 Washington State University
 Washougal School District
 Waterfall Engineering
 West End Sportsman Club
 West Sound Watersheds Council
 Western Washington University
 Weyerhaeuser
 Whatcom Assistance Program
 Whatcom Community College
 Whatcom Community Foundation
 Whatcom Conservation District
 Whatcom County
 Whatcom County Parks
 Whatcom County PUD #1
 Whatcom ECO Net
 Whatcom Land Trust
 Whitman College
 Wild Fish Conservancy
 Wild Salmon Conservancy
 Williams Gas Pipeline
 WSU Extension
 Yakama Nation
 Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program
 Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
 Yakima Basin Tributaries Habitat Access Program
 Yakima County
 Ziegler Family

FUNDING

Base funding for the RFEG program comes from a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*, a portion of state commercial and recreational fishing license fees, and excess egg and carcass sales administered by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Support through volunteerism, individual donations, and in-kind contributions from community members and businesses are essential to the success of each RFEG. RFEGs also obtain grants for projects from other government and private entities.

2015 FUNDING SOURCES

License Revenue

\$522,806

Egg and Carcass

\$514,778

Total State Revenue

\$1,037,585

Total Federal Revenue

\$ 1,157,165

Total Operating

\$2,194,750



Clark Creek coho



RFEC contributions to the salmon recovery effort in Washington State have been immense. It is imperative that we increase support for RFECs so that they can do more of their outstanding habitat restoration and public education work in order to fully recover our iconic salmon, steelhead and bull trout populations in Washington State.

—JEFF DAVIS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WDFW HABITAT PROGRAM

WHO WE ARE

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Managing Director

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Anne Benson, Steelhead Intern
Ian Senestrano, Steelhead Intern
Kylie Stoneburner, Steelhead Intern
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Amanda Munsch, StreamTeam Intern
Megan Madamba, StreamTeam Intern
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Ahmed Hammou, Summer Chum Intern

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Garrett Pittis, Beaver Biologist
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Garrett Brendan, Americorps Bull Trout Task Force
Nicole Fenton, Americorps Bull Trout Task Force

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Dave Barker, Restoration Technician
Amy Johnson, Bookkeeper

North Olympic Salmon Coalition

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Nancy Erreca, Administrative Assistant
Kevin Long, Project Manager
Nicole O'Hara, Development Manager
Kendra Krantz, Education and Outreach Assistant (WCC IP)

Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition

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Bengt Miller, Restoration Technician
Andy Beckman, Restoration Technician
Kyle Koch, Restoration Technician

Sound Salmon Solutions

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Tyler Morrison, Secretary
Chris Grieve

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Robert Sendrey, Executive Director (through July 2015)
Kevin Lee, Program Manager
Deborah Oaks, Habitat Program Coordinator
Andrew Noone, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Kelley Govan, Education Specialist
Alexei Desmarais, WCC Intern
Michelle Maynard, Office & Finance Manager (through May 2015)
Melanie Constantino, Office & Finance Manager
Lisa Syravong, Membership & Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Fosmire, Habitat Restoration Specialist (through December 2014)
Michael Zeuger, Habitat Restoration Technician
Jessica Lange, Habitat Restoration Technician
Mike Schock, Habitat Restoration Technician
Matt Hayes, Habitat Restoration Technician
Sam Brockway, Habitat Restoration Technician

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

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Duane Fagergren
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Christine Garst, Accounts Manager
Brian Combs, Project Manager
Jerilyn Walley, Project Manager
Kristin Williamson, Project Manager
Phoebe Tyson, WCC Individual Placement

Tri-State Steelheaders

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Ralph Hogate
Audra Krussel
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Dan Vernon
Larry Zalaznik

Staff

Brian Burns, Executive Director
Amber Larsen, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Steve Gwinn, Volunteer Coordinator
Cheryl Cockerline, Administrative Assistant

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Board of Directors

Mark Ashely
Bob Lake
David Lewis
Bruce Ogren



THANK YOU



LARRY ZALAZNIK
President of the Board

As an avid fisherman, I have seen firsthand the impact of drought, fire, warming waters, and low river flows on salmon and steelhead making their way upstream to vital spawning grounds.

Fish need a healthy ecosystem comprised of good water quality, streamside vegetation, and instream habitat for survival.

public education, and promoting recreational angling.

Healthy, robust habitats maximize the potential for all fish and wildlife during normal conditions, and provide buffers against population declines during high-stress periods.

We play a prominent role in habitat restoration by engaging citizen volunteers and landowners. Volunteers across the state have logged millions of hours since the creation of the RFEG program in 1990. Since then, RFEG accomplishments have evolved from small-scale fish propagation and riparian projects, to complex and expensive salmon habitat restoration projects that benefit multiple, ESA-listed and non-listed species, stakeholders, and the public.

Over the last 25 years, RFEGs have leveraged base funding through volunteerism and donations at a rate of at least 7 to 1. This “boots on the ground” model stretches every dollar of public investment

Now is the time, more than ever before, to prioritize habitat restoration in salmon recovery.

—LARRY ZALAZNIK, BOARD PRESIDENT, REGIONAL FISHERIES COALITION

Unfortunately, human actions through generations have degraded streams, rivers, estuaries, and coastal environments. Human-caused factors and recent devastation from natural events have contributed to a dramatic decline in salmon and steelhead.

As the President of the Board of the Regional Fisheries Coalition, I volunteer hundreds of hours every year in support of our collective mission to restore sustainable populations of native salmonids by enhancing habitat, providing

and makes a significant impact statewide. However, the fee structure that supports the program has remained unchanged since the program’s inception.

Increased capacity funding for the RFEG program is needed to not only maintain current service levels, but also to enable the expansion of needed projects, monitoring, and public outreach activities: a solid investment in salmon recovery for future generations of Washington residents.

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