



ALEA

AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT



VOLUNTEER COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM
2015-2017 REPORT



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Introduction

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

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

Eligible applicants include, but aren’t limited to: individual citizens, non-profits, conservation districts, schools and tribes.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

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

Grant Review and Selection

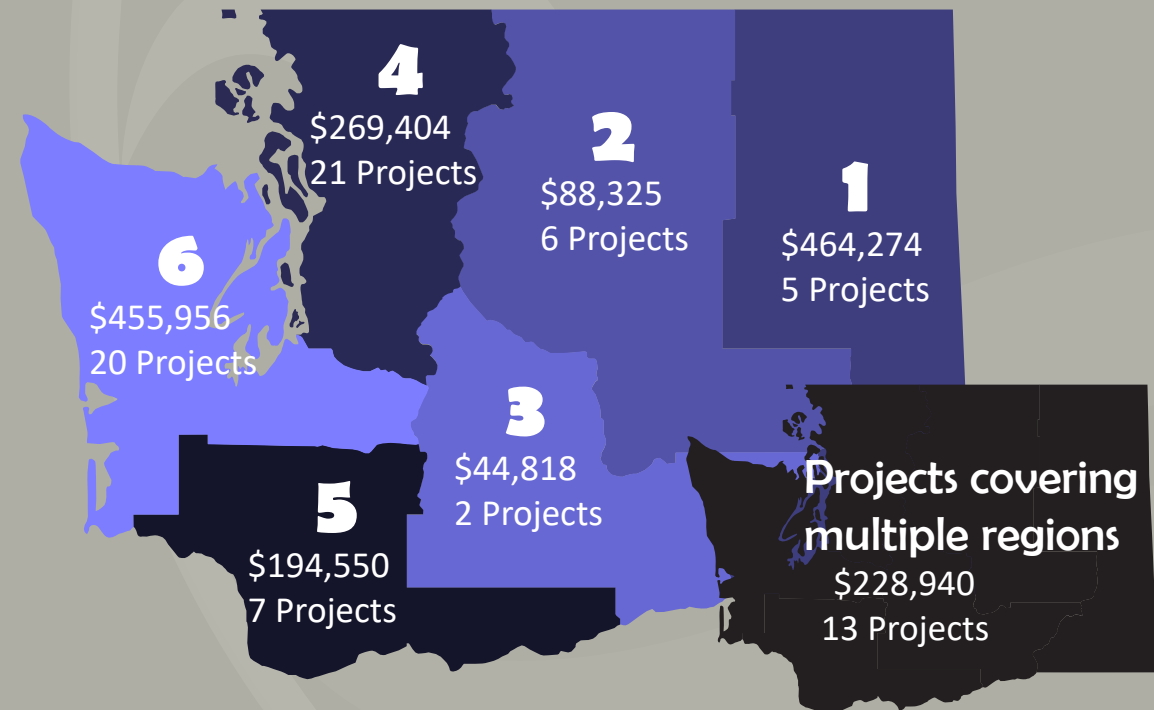
Proposals are accepted once per biennium, from December 1-February 28. They are reviewed and scored by a panel of 18 employees representing a cross-section of WDFW Regions and Programs. A ranked list of projects recommended for funding is presented to WDFW’s Director and the Executive Management Team for approval.

PROGRAM DATA

Regions

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

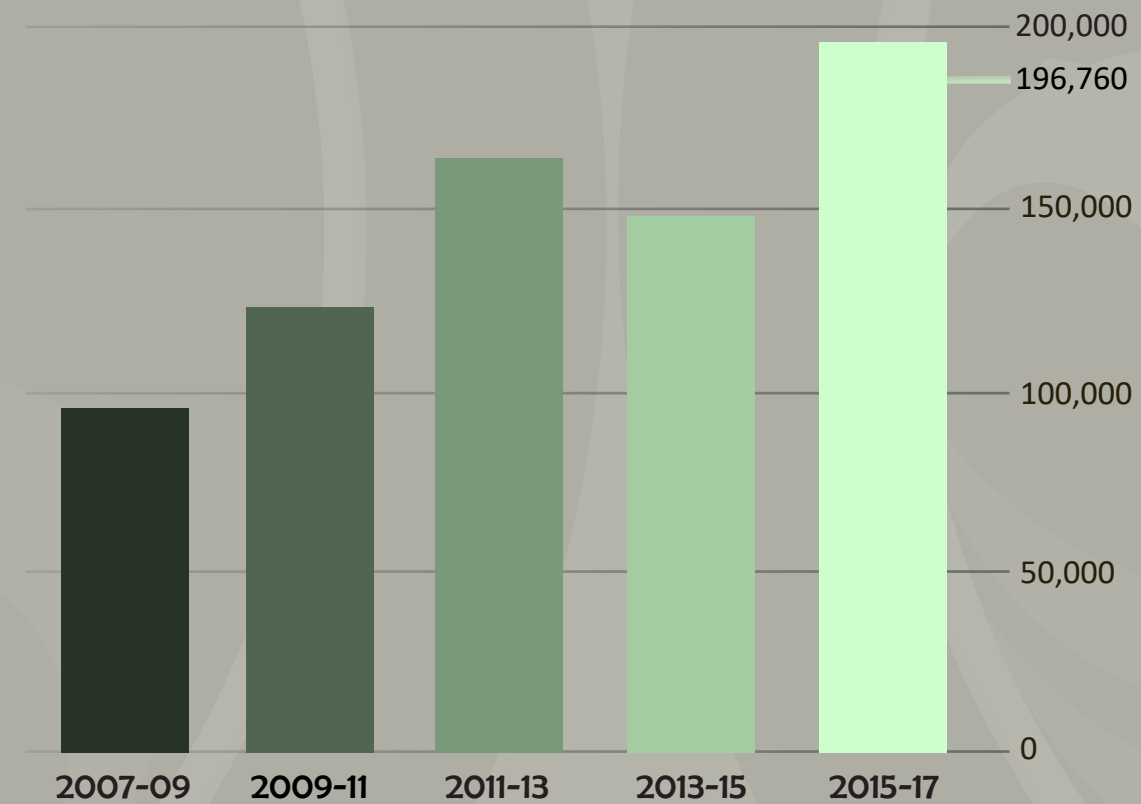
Funds spent and number of projects funded per region



Volunteers

Volunteer effort is a cornerstone of the ALEA Grant Program. Project proposals are scored, in part, by the expected level of volunteer utilization to conduct their project activities.

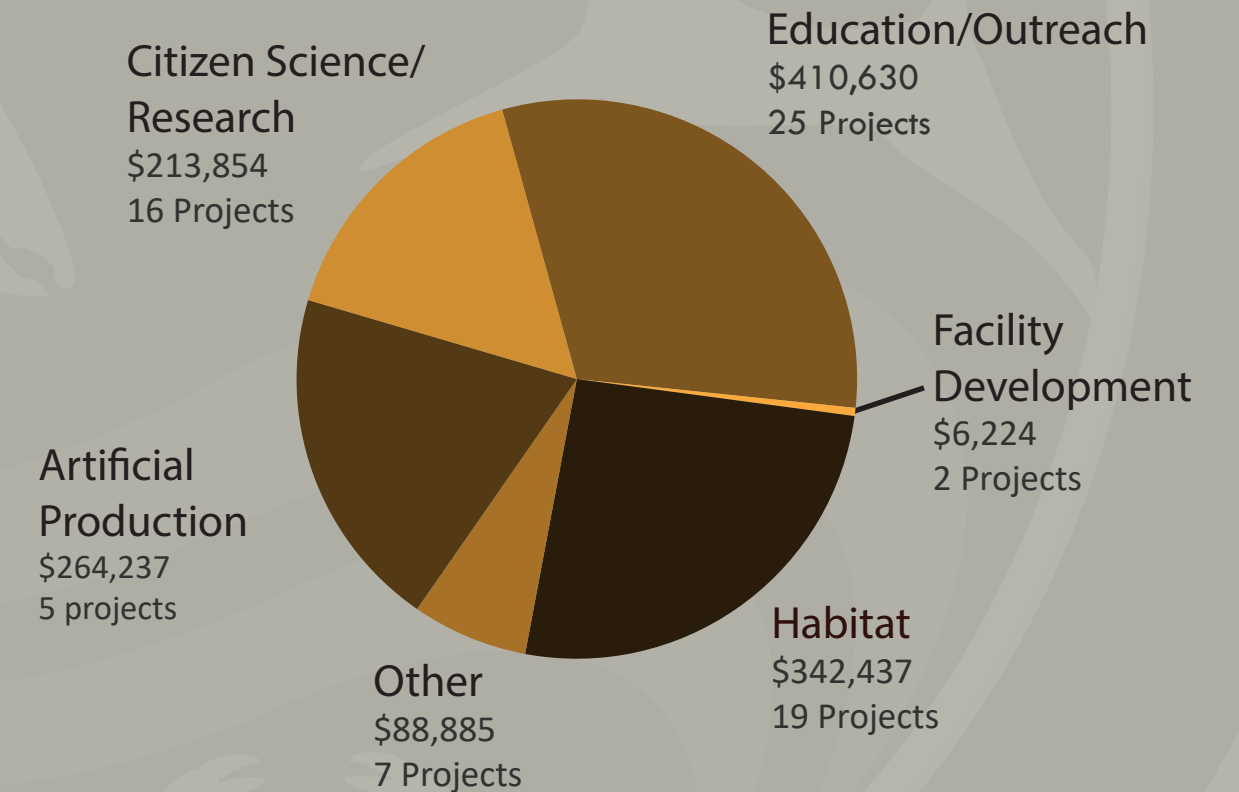
Total volunteer hours all projects



Project Types

ALEA grants fund a variety of fish and wildlife projects. While ALEA funds standard project types, shown below, other projects meeting the criteria are considered. Our diverse portfolio of grants are categorized below.

Funds spent and number of projects funded per project type



Region 1



	Project Name	Sponsor	Project Type	Project Cost	Volunteer Hours	Accomplishments
	North Audubon Lake Trail Interpretive Signs Project	Lincoln County Conservation District	Education	\$2,200	90	Designed, constructed and installed interpretive signage
	Lek Surveys and other Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Recovery Activities	Spokane Audubon Society	Research/ Citizen Science	\$6,030	1,075	Surveyed grouse leks in Douglas and Lincoln counties and radio-tracked marked grouse
	Pettitt Upland & Riparian Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Palouse Conservation District	Habitat	\$6,959	1,073	Installed native plants along the South Fork Palouse River and on 10 acres of upland habitat
	Colville Fish Hatchery Skill Center	Washington For Wildlife	Other	\$18,986	1,600	Provided an aquaculture vocational program, while rearing over 100,000 trout
	Wild Kids	West Valley Outdoor Learning Center	Education	\$10,098	1,460	Engaged students in educational activities related to habitat, water quality and wildlife presence at the Saltese Flats area

Region 2



	P.O.W.E.R. Project Fish	Promoters of Wildlife & Environmental Resources	Artificial Production	\$2,219	910	Reared and released over 300,000 rainbow trout into Banks Lake for recreational fishing
	Chelan Ridge HawkWatch	HawkWatch International	Research/ Citizen Science	\$15,582	4,460	Counted and banded migrating raptors, provided educational programs to the visiting public
	Stream Bank Stabilization and Nesting Cover	Washington Waterfowl Association	Habitat	\$30,119	400	Installed over 9,000 trees and shrubs to prevent erosion and provide nesting cover for wild fowl
	Sidley Lake Aerator	Molson Grange #1069	Habitat	\$2,426	75	Monitored and maintained an aerator at Sidley lake to enhance fish survival over the winter
	Climate Change and Canada Lynx in the Cascades - Building a Better Understanding of Southern Range Dynamics of a Threatened Species	Washington State University	Research/ Citizen Science	\$19,853	780	Conducted camera trap surveys of lynx, collected hair samples for genetic and isotopic analysis and worked towards estimating lynx abundance and density from capture-recapture analysis
	Western Gray Squirrel Research	Pacific Biodiversity Institute	Habitat	\$18,126	2812	Deployed and checked hair sampling tubes to monitor known and identify new western gray squirrel populations in the Methow Valley

Region 3



	Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps	Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps	Education	\$40,068	10,314	Operated the Oak Creek Wildlife Area visitor center during elk winter feeding periods
	Canyons as Corridors - Interactive Education in the Yakima Canyon	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Education	\$4,750	416	Restored ten acres of wildlife habitat through weed removal, seeding and planting native trees and shrubs and supported a youth summer camp focused on exploration and knowledge of native habitats

See photo gallery starting on page 5



Regions 1, 2, 3



Colville Fish Hatchery Skill Center



P.O.W.E.R. Project Fish



Canyons as Corridors - Interactive Education in the Yakima Canyon



Stream Bank Stabilization and Nesting Cover



Pettitt Upland & Riparian Wildlife Habitat Enhancement



Climate Change and Canada Lynx in the Cascades - Building a Better Understanding of Southern Range Dynamics of a Threatened Species



North Audubon Lake Trail Interpretive Signs



Chelan Ridge HawkWatch

Region 4



Salmon Sightings

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Education

\$10,829

327

Assisted with local schools' salmon in the classroom projects, coordinated student field trips to Marblemount Hatchery, hosted salmon viewing events for the public



Catherine Creek Community Restoration Project

Adopt A Stream Foundation

Habitat

\$17,396

808

Installed over 5,800 native trees and shrubs along Catherine Creek and engaged local students in planting events



Camp Korey Volunteer Restoration

Stewardship Partners

Habitat

\$11,835

1,141

Conducted habitat restoration along 3,000 linear feet of the mainstem Snoqualmie River, Sikes Lake and Oxbow Lake combined

Directing mountain goat restoration efforts by understanding fine-scale attributes of mountain goat habitat and characteristics of residual populations in the North Cascades

Conservation Northwest

Research/
Citizen Science

\$9,354

1,698

Collected mountain goat fecal samples for nutrient analysis and conducted habitat surveys of potential mountain goat translocation sites

Forage Fish Spawn Habitat Engagement and Enhancement Project

Friends of the San Juans

Habitat

\$1,928

223

Cleared bank armoring rock from Sucia Island beaches to improve forage fish habitat, completed pre- and post-project forage fish spawner surveys and conducted project-related landowner outreach

Snoqualmie River at Fall City: Plum Access #2 Enhancement Project

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Other

\$1,273

377

Provided sanitation facilities for the public at the Plum #2 water access site, cleared invasive blackberry bushes and installed native conifers



Salmonid Population Monitoring

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Research/
Citizen Science

\$11,921

4,363

Completed steelhead spawner surveys and monitored previous riparian restoration efforts

Stillaguamish Mainstem Enhancement

Sound Salmon Solutions

Habitat

\$11,058

583

Implemented riparian habitat restoration at multiple locations in the lower Stillaguamish River system, removing invasive species and installing native vegetation over 15 acres



SFEG Volunteer Monitoring

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Research/
Citizen Science

\$16,835

3,330

Conducted vegetation monitoring at native planting sites, salmon spawner surveys, and juvenile fish sampling



Watershed Exploration Project

Whatcom Conservation District

Education

\$26,550

220

Designed and constructed a mobile interactive watershed model of Whatcom county to educate youth about watershed ecology and function

WRIA 1 Community Salmon Habitat Restoration Project Phase II

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Habitat

\$40,056

2,426

Conducted habitat restoration and monitoring at several locations within the Nooksack (WRIA 1) watershed



See photo gallery starting on page 13

Region 4



	Project Name	Sponsor	Project Type	Project Cost	Volunteer Hours	Accomplishments
	ADA Wildlife Viewing Blind	Washington Waterfowl Association	Facility Development	\$1,009	120	Contracted and installed an ADA accessible wildlife viewing blind at the Skagit Wildlife Area
	Junior Stream Stewards	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Education	\$11,585	2,152	Engaged close to 1,000 7th and 8th grade students in a variety of educational activities such as salmon dissection, water quality testing, salmon viewing events, and habitat restoration
	Volunteer-based whole-lake control of invasive red swamp crayfish	University of Washington	Research/Citizen Science	\$6,286	3,102	Coordinated Pine Lake residents in removing invasive red swamp crayfish from the lake
	Investigating how landscape characteristics shape cougar foraging ecology along the urban-to-wildland gradient of western Washington	University of Washington	Research/Citizen Science	\$5,663	1,336	Conducted research and analyzed data to determine how urbanization impacted the propensity for cougars to kill certain prey types
	Community-based Salmon Habitat Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Habitat	\$28,054	2,878	Engaged volunteers in improving and maintaining Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Groups plant nursery, installed approximately 6,500 native plants at ten restoration sites and removed an undersized culvert
	Snoqualmie Mainstem Enhancement	Sound Salmon Solutions	Habitat	\$10,584	509	Planted over 2,100 native trees and shrubs at several locations along the mainstem Snoqualmie River and removed invasive plant species over a 10-acre area
	Water Watchers	Sno-King Watershed Council	Education	\$7,246	4,500	Developed a network of citizen scientists to build public awareness of water quality issues and monitored water quality in the Sammamish River watershed
	Salmon Stewards	Sound Salmon Solutions	Education	\$9,100	959	Engaged students with hands-on lessons about watersheds and salmon conservation and installed 1,000 plants at six restoration sites

See photo gallery starting on page 13

Region 4



Skagit Land Trust Riparian Education Project

Skagit Land Trust

Education

\$4,234

50

Designed, produced and installed three interpretive signs at the land trust's Cumberland Creek Conservation Area to educate the public about salmon habitat and aquatic lands



Students For Salmon

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Education

\$26,610

3,488

Educated students about salmon, stream ecology, stewardship, and habitat restoration

Region 5



Weyerhaeuser Yacolt Burn Hunting Access

Yacolt Burn Sportsmans Club

Other

\$5,587

787

Facilitated public access, for hunting and other recreation, to Weyerhaeuser forest lands by opening and closing gates, conducted litter cleanups and kept roads clear and safe



Lake Sacajawea Kids Fish-In

Cowlitz Game and Anglers

Education

\$6,913

1,010

Coordinated two kids fishing events at Lake Sacajawea to provide fishing education and opportunity



Kline Kids Fishing

Kline Kids Fishing Nonprofit

Education

\$56,160

13,008

Conducted the Kline Kids Fishing event twice over the grant period and supported several other kids fishing events by providing rods and reels



Toutle, Lewis and Washougal River Restoration Support

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Habitat

\$49,750

5186

Enhanced salmon habitat by installing large wood structures that will create pools, reduce water velocity and store sediment



Cooperative Riparian Enhancement IV

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Habitat

\$44,603

18,269

Facilitated the propagation and planting of tens of thousands of native plants and provided presentations about healthy riparian habitat



StreamTeam Salmon Creek Enhancement Project

Clark Public Utilities

Education

\$10,100

7,140

Enhanced Salmon Creek watershed habitat by planting over 19,000 trees



See photo gallery starting on page 13



Nutrient Enhancement Support III

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Habitat

\$21,437.59

4,167

Dispersed surplus salmon carcasses in the Lewis, Green, Kalama Toutle and Washougal Rivers to provide marine-derived nutrients to those aquatic ecosystems



Regions 4, 5



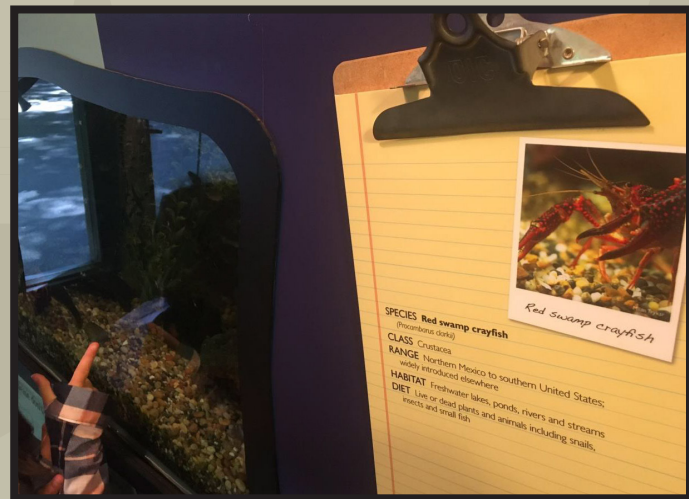
Junior Stream Stewards



ADA Wildlife Viewing Blind



SFEG Volunteer Monitoring



Volunteer-based whole-lake control of invasive red swamp crayfish



Watershed Exploration Project



Water Watchers



Community-based Salmon Habitat Restoration



Students For Salmon



Skagit Land Trust Riparian Education Project



Salmon Stewards



Regions 4, 5



Salmon Sightings



Catherine Creek Community Restoration Project



Cooperative Riparian Enhancement IV



Klineline Kids Fishing



Nutrient Enhancement Support III



Lake Sacajawea Kids Fish-In



Toutle, Lewis and Washougal River Restoration Support



Salmonid Population Monitoring



Camp Korey Volunteer Restoration

Photo credit: Kirby Johnson

Region 6



Project Name	Sponsor	Project Type	Project Cost	Volunteer Hours	Accomplishments
Poulsbo's Fish Park Phase 3	City of Poulsbo	Habitat	\$26,180	2,275	Restored habitat at Dogfish Creek and the Liberty Bay estuary and improved trails, installed a platform and constructed 450' of board-walk for pedestrian access
Chehalis Basin Restoration through Education and Action	Capital Region Educational Service District 113/Chehalis Basin Education Consortium	Education	\$12,622	1,186	Coordinated over 30 Chehalis Basin teachers and their students in conducting water quality monitoring, removed invasive plants and installed native trees and shrubs and provided interpretive walks
South Fork Muck Creek Community Restoration	Pierce Conservation District	Habitat	\$5,036	556	Restored an acre of riparian habitat on the South Fork of Muck Creek
Satsop Springs Rearing Facility	Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force	Artificial Production	\$75,000	3,812	Rearing and released several hundred thousand chum, chinook and coho salmon and implemented facility improvements
Puget Creek Watershed Restoration and Education	Puget Creek Restoration Society	Habitat	\$4,156	1693	Conducted habitat monitoring and restoration activities at the Puget Creek Natural Area
Silver Lake Net Pen	Amy Kenney	Artificial Production	\$11,397	460	Rearing and released 39,000 rainbow trout to enhance the Silver Lake fishery and built a new net pen
Hood Canal Steelhead Project	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Research/Citizen Science	\$13,573	3,136	Conducted spawner and redd surveys; collected DNA, scales and data on returning adult steelhead in the Dewatto River and operated smolt traps to quantify the abundance of out-migrating fish
Matheny Pre-commercial thinning improvement - Phase 2	Eyes in the Woods	Habitat	\$20,520	2313	Chainsaw-trained volunteers created slash pilings and corridors to facilitate the movement of elk and other species in the Matheny Creek Watershed in areas where pre-commercial thinning had prevented adequate wildlife passage
Union & Tahuya Summer Chum	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Research/Citizen Science	\$10,324	3,551	Continued to assess adult summer chum populations through operation of a weir trap and collected DNA, otolith samples and size and sex data
Tarboo Watershed Plant-A-Thon: How Do Salmon Grow On Trees?	Northwest Watershed Institute	Education	\$18,305	950	Conducted the 2017 "Plant-a-Thon" event, which engaged hundreds of volunteers in restoring riparian habitat along Tarboo Creek
Peabody Creek Revitalization	Feiro Marine Life Center	Education	\$6,894	512	Removed invasive plants, planted native trees and picked up litter along Peabody Creek and implemented their North Olympic Watershed Science program for approximately 800 students

See photo gallery starting on page 23

Region 6



Project Name	Sponsor	Project Type	Project Cost	Volunteer Hours	Accomplishments
EITW Property Watch Region 6 Projects	Eyes in the Woods	Other	\$10,401	1,040	Eyes in the Woods maintained gates and signage and deployed remote cameras to assist agencies with enforcing road closures to protect elk and other wildlife species
Lacey Kid's Fish-in	Puget Sound Anglers South Sound Chapter	Education	\$11,724	1,261	Conducted the Lacey Kids Fish-in for over 800 youth, providing rods and reels and the opportunity to catch trout and provided mini-workshops on fish identification, ethics, water/boat safety knot tying and more
Union River Preserve Trail Improvement	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Facility Development	\$5,216	409	Maintained the Union Preserve Trail to keep it accessible and safe for the public
Hood Canal Steelhead Project - LLTK/Lilliwaup Hatchery Component	Long Live the Kings	Artificial Production	\$38,185	508	Reared and released steelhead, monitored redd creation and steelhead presence, conducted juvenile and adult sampling to determine growth rate and genetic composition and assessed the diets of hatchery and natural origin steelhead
Salmon Research and Monitoring in the Tarboo - Dabob Bay Watershed	Northwest Watershed Institute	Research/Citizen Science	\$9,678	314	Conducted steelhead surveys in Tarboo Creek and had coho scale samples analyzed to determine how closely released Tarboo Creek coho are to nearby populations
Nisqually Community Restoration at Red Salmon Creek	Nisqually River Foundation	Other	\$17,310	876	Engaged community volunteers and students from several area schools to install native plants at Red Salmon creek
NOSC Native Plant Nursery and Riparian Planting Program	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Habitat	\$7,035	777	Raised plants at their native plant nursery and provided plants for restoration projects in Clallam and Jefferson counties
Mayr Brothers Hatchery	Grays Harbor Poggie Club	Artificial Production	\$137,436	2,609	Reared and released chinook, coho and chum salmon and maintained the Mayr Brothers Hatchery facility
Salmon Spawner Monitoring Program	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Research/Citizen Science	\$8,915	3,552	Conducted chum and coho spawner surveys and operated adult and smolt traps

Multi-Region Projects



Eastern Washington Kids Fishing Events	Inland Northwest Wildlife Council	Education	\$55,024	3,759	Helped coordinate six kids fishing events Kennewick, Yakima and Spokane that accommodated approximately 7,000 youth.
Wildlife Guzzler Rehabilitation, Inspection and Education	Richland Rod & Gun Club	Habitat	\$3,303	1,010	Cleaned, inspected and repaired 104 wildlife watering cisterns in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties

See photo gallery starting on page 23

Multi-Region Projects



Project Name	Sponsor	Project Type	Project Cost	Volunteer Hours	Accomplishments
Sagebrush Songbird Survey	Audubon Washington	Research/Citizen Science	\$34,243	3,848	Collected data on the presence of sagebrush songbirds in eastern Washington shrub-steppe habitat
Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project	Conservation Northwest	Research/Citizen Science	\$9,773	9,150	Collected data on wildlife presence in the Cascades (with a focus on gray wolves, wolverines and grizzly bear) through the use of remote camera monitoring and snow-tracking surveys
EITW Crime Observation & Reporting Training (CORT)	Eyes in the Woods	Education	\$5,485	1,269	Eyes in the Woods, working in conjunction with WDFW Enforcement, conducted trainings around the state to teach citizens how to accurately and safely report
Youth Education & Wood Duck Enhancement	Richland Rod and Gun Club	Education	\$1,218	2,439	Engaged youth in wood duck conservation by having them construct nest boxes at over a dozen community events and conducted annual maintenance on over 400 nest boxes already installed throughout the Tri-Cities area
Salmon in the Classroom Equipment Maintenance and Supplies	Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program	Education	\$23,098	811	Coordinated salmon in the classroom projects for nearly 200 classrooms and hosted students on salmon spawning fieldtrips
Cascades Carnivore Project	Joecelyn Akins - Cascades Carnivore Project	Research/Citizen Science	\$27,157	4,230	Conducted remote camera surveys, snow tracking and trail searches for Cascade red fox, wolverine and gray wolf in the South Cascades.
Volunteers in Salmon Recovery & Education	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Other	\$19,746	690	Removed rock dams on Yakima basin tributaries, restored habitat on the White Salmon River and conducted educational events for local students on salmon recovery and life cycle, watersheds and water quality
Citizen Science Enhancement and Outreach Initiative	Seattle Audubon Society	Research/Citizen Science	\$6,123	8,950	Conducted Puget Sound seabird surveys and coordinated the Neighborhood Bird Project and the Seattle Christmas Bird Count event
COASST Cards: Linking Citizen Science and Species of Conservation Concern	University of Washington	Education	\$14,296	16,138	Designed, printed and distributed "Marine Debris Cards", which provide information about harmful marine debris and the species it affects
Channeling Land-Based Whale Watching into Salmon Habitat Restoration and Everyday Stewardship Actions	Whale Scout	Education	\$5,530	2,563	Utilized volunteer naturalists to provide orca educational information and materials to the whale watching public and engaged some of those citizens to participate in salmon habitat restoration projects
Rockfish Education	Puget Sound Anglers	Education	\$23,942	404	Conducted outreach with potential rock fish anglers about rockfish identification and the use of descender devices, which quickly return rockfish bycatch to proper depth and reduce the effects of barotrauma - 630 descender devices were distributed through this outreach

See photo gallery starting on page 23



Region 6, Multi-region



Poulsbo's Fish Park Phase 3



Hood Canal Steelhead Project - LLTK/Lilliwaup Hatchery Component



Union & Tahuya Summer Chum



Satsop Springs Rearing Facility



Cascades Carnivore Project



NOSC Native Plant Nursery and Riparian Planting Program



Lacey Kid's Fish-in



Region 6, Multi-region



Union River Preserve Trail Improvement



Citizen Science Enhancement and Outreach Initiative



Matheny Pre-commercial thinning improvement - Phase 2



Youth Education & Wood Duck Enhancement



Sagebrush Songbird Survey



Wildlife Guzzler Rehabilitation, Inspection and Education



Citizen Wildlife Monitoring Project



Rockfish Education



Region 6, Multi-region



Silver Lake Net Pen



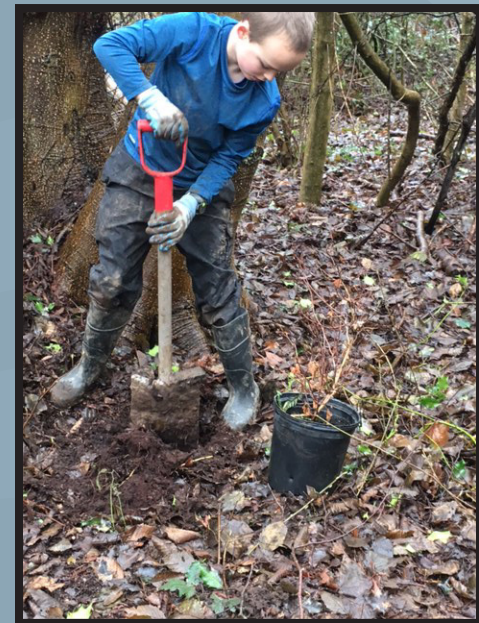
Salmon Spawner Monitoring Program



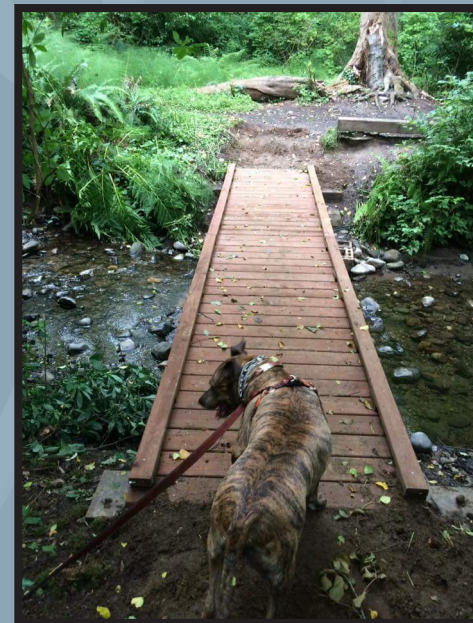
Hood Canal Steelhead Project



COASST Cards: Linking Citizen Science and Species of Conservation Concern



Peabody Creek Revitalization



Eastern Washington Kids Fishing Events



ALEA

