



Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Annual Report for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012



*Dedicated to
Community-Based
Salmon Enhancement
in Washington State*

Photos courtesy of:

Top Left: Mid-Puget Sound FEG

Top Right: Lower Columbia FEG

Bottom: Jessica Newley, NOSC volunteer

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program

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Executive Summary

Dedicated To Community-Based Salmon Enhancement throughout Washington State

The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) are a statewide network of non-profit salmon enhancement organizations. Created by the Washington State Legislature in 1990, the RFEG Program involves local communities, citizen volunteers and landowners in the state's salmon recovery efforts. The long term vision of the RFEG program is that Washington State communities actively care for and become stewards of abundant salmon populations for future generations.

The 14 RFEGs share the unique role of involving local communities in salmon enhancement activities. Each group is a separate, local, non-profit organization with their own board of directors and supported by their members.

The RFEGs share the goal of enhancing salmon and steelhead populations and habitat through leveraging contributions and support from local communities. The RFEGs create dynamic partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, local businesses, citizen groups and landowners. RFEGs help lead their communities in successful enhancement, restoration, assessment, education and monitoring projects.

Donations and in-kind contributions from community members and businesses are essential to the success of each RFEG. Individual RFEGs obtain many grants from

Since 1995, these accomplishments add up to:

- 3,401 total salmon projects
- 1,460,111 volunteer hours
- 71.8 million salmon released into Washington waters
- 773 fish passage problems fixed
- 881 miles of fish habitat opened
- 575 additional miles of habitat restored
- 1,020,807 fish carcasses placed back in streams for nutrient enhancement
- \$167,703,892 in additional leveraged funding for salmon restoration efforts

governmental and private entities. In recent years the RFEG Program has successfully worked with U.S. Representatives and Senators to secure funding from the federal government.

During the fiscal year, the RFEGs collectively completed:

- **192 projects** ranging from education and outreach to monitoring and, of course, on the ground salmon enhancement projects.
- RFEG volunteers donated over **127,245 hours** to these salmon enhancement efforts.
- Half of the RFEGs participated in fish production projects, **releasing 2,510,100 fish** into local watersheds.
- **31 fish passage** improvement projects **opened 34 miles of habitat** for migrating salmon.
- **39 miles of habitat** was enhanced and restored for salmonids and
- **57,676 salmon carcasses** were returned to streams to add nutrients to local watersheds for juvenile salmon, bears, eagles and over 130 other species of wildlife.
- **187.2 FTEs supported by the program.** 52.7 RFEG FTEs, 22 Washington Conservation Corp FTEs and an additional 112 professional and construction FTEs.

The RFEG program makes a significant contribution to Washington's salmon recovery efforts by:

- Leveraging local and private money
- Promoting stewardship through volunteer involvement
- Working cooperatively with diverse interest groups
- Building on each year's successes

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Mission for the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provides financial and technical resources to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups to engage citizens and their communities in salmon recovery.

The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups provide grass roots salmon recovery efforts. These efforts include conducting outreach and education, maintaining relationships with citizens and landowners, and building local support for salmon recovery. The groups are also invaluable project sponsors, working with landowners, volunteers and local contractors to complete on-the-ground restoration and enhancement projects. Much of the progress and success in salmon recovery is due to local citizen-driven actions such as those conducted by the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups.

Funding for the RFEG Program comes from several sources, including a percentage of salmon license revenue (both commercial and recreational) and egg and

carcass sales from state-funded hatcheries. RFEG funds administered by WDFW are equally apportioned to the groups. In turn, the individual RFEGs utilize state and federal funding to attract tremendous local support for their work, often recruiting upwards of seventeen times their base funding in additional grants. WDFW also manages annual federal contracts granted to the RFEG Program.

In addition to its fiduciary (contracting and accounting services) responsibility to the RFEG Program, WDFW reviews all RFEG project proposals to ensure compatibility with existing laws, WDFW policies, comanagement and other salmon recovery efforts conducted within a specific watershed.



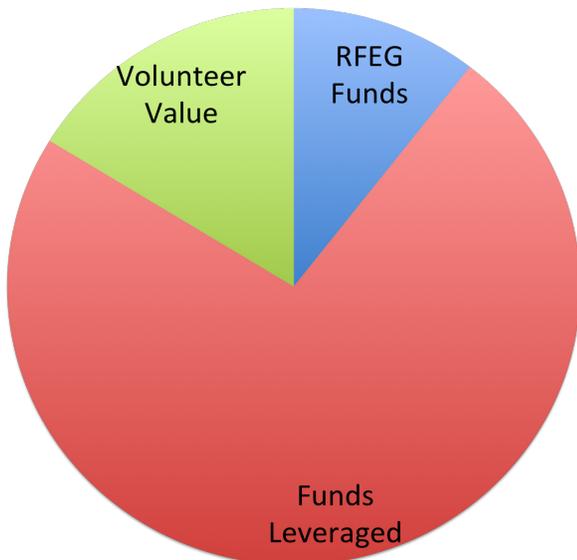
Financial Summary

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Program Expenditures: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Group	RFEG Funds	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Dollars*	Funds Leveraged	Total Spent
Nooksack SEG	\$112,110	53,170	\$1,116,570	\$1,484,471	\$2,713,151
Skagit FEG	\$126,742	7,893	\$165,748	\$1,246,736	\$1,539,226
Sound Salmon Solutions	\$212,894	10,612	\$228,448	\$679,532	\$1,120,874
Mid-Sound FEG	\$135,798	1,120	\$23,520	\$171,688	\$331,006
South Puget Sound SEG	\$147,167	1,000	\$21,000	\$1,062,377	\$1,230,544
Hood Canal SEG	\$104,905	7,111	\$149,321	\$1,415,297	\$1,669,342
North Olympic SC	\$121,698	3,722	\$78,189	\$521,312	\$721,199
Pacific Coast SC	\$147,855	3,137	\$65,877	\$230,387	\$444,119
Chehalis Basin FTF	\$95,191	7,297	\$153,237	\$399,994	\$648,422
Willapa Bay RFEG	\$5,343	2,064	\$43,344	\$0	\$48,687
Lower Columbia FEG	\$83,604	26,478	\$556,038	\$2,312,486	\$2,952,128
Mid-Columbia FEG	\$180,217	1,156	\$24,276	\$1,019,264	\$1,223,757
Tri-State Steelheaders SEG	\$150,570	1,979	\$41,549	\$891,292	\$1,083,410
Cascade Columbia FEG	\$120,166	507	\$10,647	\$85,743	\$216,556
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1,744,259</i>	<i>127,245</i>	<i>\$2,677,762</i>	<i>\$11,520,579</i>	<i>\$15,942,421</i>

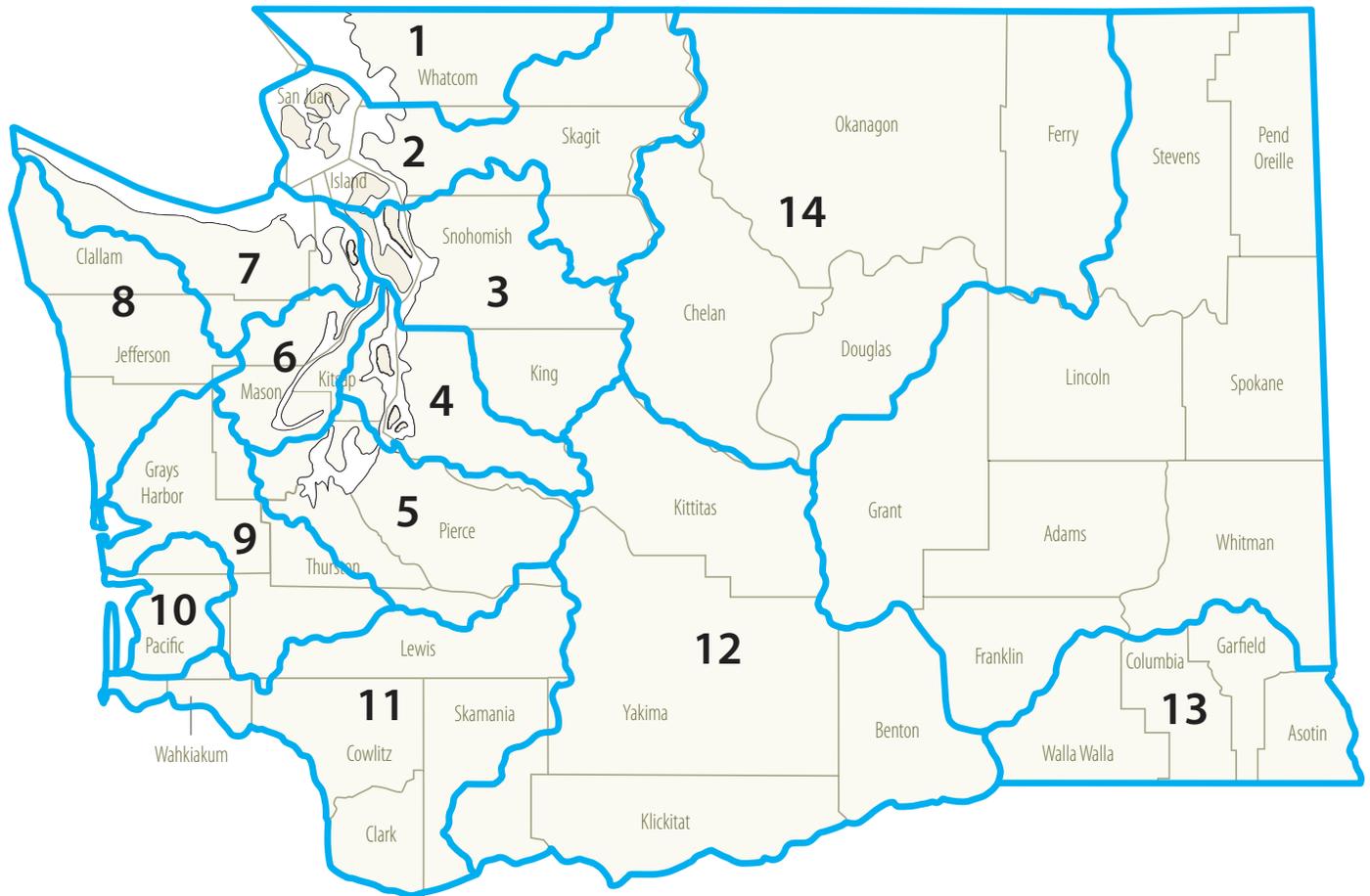
* Volunteer Dollars are based on an average of \$21 for each volunteer hour donated
http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

**In 2012, the RFEGs, on average, leveraged \$9.66 for every RFEG dollar spent.
 The additional \$9.66 includes grant dollars, donations and volunteer time.**



USFS road removal at the Greenwater River

RFEG Boundaries



Region 1 – Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group; www.n-sea.org

Region 2 – Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.skagitfisheries.org

Region 3 – Sound Salmon Solutions; www.soundsalmonsolutions.org

Region 4 – Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.midsoundfisheries.org

Region 5 – South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group; www.spsseg.org

Region 6 – Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group; www.hcseg.org

Region 7 – North Olympic Salmon Coalition; www.nosc.org

Region 8 – Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition; www.cohosalmon.com

Region 9 – Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force; www.cbftf.com

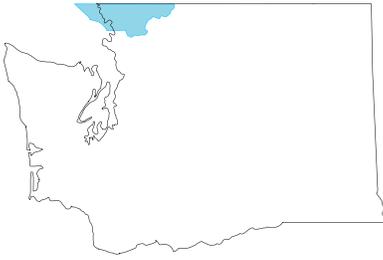
Region 10 – Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.wbrfeg.org

Region 11 – Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.lcfeg.org

Region 12 – Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.midcolumbiarfeg.com

Region 13 – Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group; www.tristatesteelheaders.com

Region 14 – Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; www.ccfeg.org



REGION 1: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association



Mission Statement

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring sustainable wild salmon runs in Whatcom County.

Overview

Established in 1990, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) works cooperatively with landowners, agencies, tribes, businesses, service organizations, students, schools and community volunteers in order to increase the awareness of, support for and involvement in salmon restoration and education. The NSEA Board of Directors meets monthly, using a Strategic Plan to implement projects and programs and address goals. NSEA's Board and staff manage operations and the fiduciary responsibilities of grants, contracts and an annual budget.

Project & Program Highlight

- Riparian Restoration: 6,950 ft. of riparian habitat planted with 18,761 native trees and shrubs, as well as maintenance at 27 previously planted sites.

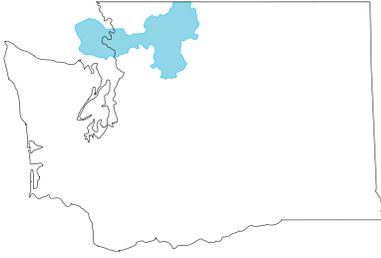


Community members of all ages help in salmon habitat restoration projects

- Community members helped crews and staff with 91 volunteer riparian restoration work parties in 2011.
- Fish enhancement: 16 salmon habitat enhancement projects.
- In-stream habitat projects: 29 large woody debris structures were installed; improving 3.3 miles of in-stream habitat.
- Fish passage projects: 4 fish passage barriers were removed; improving fish access to 3.3 miles of stream.
- Education: 1,244 students in Whatcom County participated in NSEA education programs spending 16,701 hours becoming more aware of their environment through hands-on learning and were active participants in NSEA's restoration efforts.
- NSEA coordinated one Washington Conservation Corps Crew and three Washington Service Corps Members.
- Trained, Supervised & Coordinated 34 interns.
- Community members contributed 13,818 hours to salmon enhancement activities in 2011 by planting native vegetation, monitoring water quality, counting returning salmon and supporting NSEA's capacity to operate as a vibrant nonprofit organization.



NSEA's Students for Salmon program participants learning about salmon habitat



REGION 2: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

The mission of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group is to build partnerships that educate and engage the community in habitat restoration and watershed stewardship in order to enhance salmonid populations.

Overview

In FY12, the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group completed another year of working with incredible individuals and partners to advance our mission of increasing salmon populations in the Skagit, Samish and Island community watersheds. Since 1990, we have engaged volunteers, landowners, project partners and community members to implement high quality habitat restoration work for salmon. Our education programs have expanded to engage young people who will be the future leaders and stewards of this beautiful landscape we call home. While ultimately SFEG's goal is to have more salmon in our watersheds, we hope that through our restoration and education programs we can make the place we live a better home for forests, birds, wildlife, families and future generations to thrive.

Our Board, staff and volunteers work to leave the Skagit Valley region better than when we started. Our restoration

and education programs do this one person, one project, one landowner, one child at a time. We believe that positive change can happen in our watersheds. By assisting, educating and empowering individuals to take these actions, collectively it will lead to better habitat, cleaner waterways and healthier ecosystems for all living things now and the future.

Project and Program Highlights

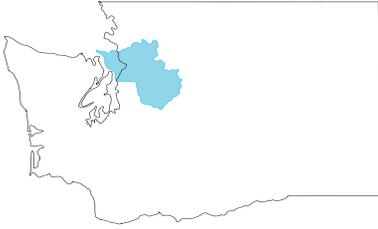
- Planted 16,412 plants on 74 acres along 5 miles of waterways.
- Performed riparian maintenance on 244 acres.
- Installed 1 mile of riparian fencing
- Improved 1 mile of instream habitat
- Protected 19,282 miles of floodplain from knotweed infestation.
- Educated 4,980 community members.
- Educated 1,632 K-12 students.
- Volunteers donated 7,711 hours to the above projects and education program.



Installing large woody debris jams in Day Creek



Volunteers conducting instream monitoring to document project effectiveness



REGION 3: Sound Salmon Solutions

Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force



Mission Statement

The mission of Sound Salmon Solutions is to engage in community outreach, education and habitat restoration projects that ensure the future of salmon in the watersheds of the Stillaguamish and Snohomish rivers, and Island County.

To achieve this mission the following goals are pursued: restoration and enhancement of salmon habitat, education and outreach that facilitates necessary cultural shifts and collaborative partnerships that increases capacity for effective long-term accomplishments.

Overview

Established in 1990 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force has a rich history of being a community-based, volunteer supported, membership organization dedicated to salmon recovery. In late 2011, the organization expanded its strategic vision and began doing business as Sound Salmon Solutions.

A dedicated staff supported by a committed base of members, volunteers and local public, and private partners has worked cooperatively with landowners, government agencies, tribes, businesses, service organizations and schools to increase personal and public awareness, support and involvement in salmon recovery projects. These alliances have provided donated labor, services and matching funds in support of our mission.

Project Highlights

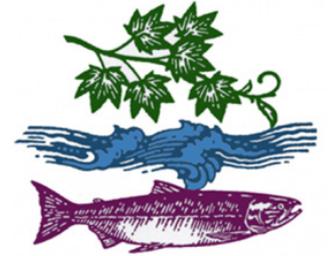
The organization engaged in nine salmon habitat restoration projects on 12.47 acres with a total of 9,992 plantings along 1.6 miles of stream bank. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB), WA Department of Ecology (WDOE), WA State Parks, Snohomish Conservation District, King Conservation District, Snohomish County Department of Surface Water Management, City of Arlington, Ducks Unlimited, Girl Scout Camp River Ranch, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), REI, Seattle City Light, Stillaguamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribe and Pearl Jam provided funding for the projects.



A volunteer prepares to fling a Chum carcass



REGION 4: Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

The mission of the Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group is to conserve and restore self-sustaining salmonid populations through close involvement with diverse community interests.

Overview

Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (Mid Sound), founded in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization, includes volunteer members representing businesses, local governmental agencies, tribal interests and environmental organizations.

Mid Sound directly supports the enhancement of salmon and steelhead populations and habitat throughout our region. The geographic region includes the Lake Washington basin (WRIA 8), Green/Duwamish River basin (WRIA 9), streams draining along the King County shoreline and Kitsap County streams flowing into the Sound from the Northeast end of the Hood Canal Bridge,

south to the Kitsap-Pierce County line (WRIA 15).

Since 1991, Mid Sound has completed more than 270 projects, including stream bank fencing, native tree and shrub plantings, fish blockage removal, wetland restoration, fish enhancement and monitoring, education and training events. Each of these projects serve as a catalyst to building community partnerships in Puget Sound. Together, these partnerships contribute invaluable time and resources for the recovery of salmon in the Pacific Northwest. It is our belief that community-based salmon recovery develops educational opportunities for volunteers to learn about and become part of the interwoven complexities of our environment.

Project Highlights

- Began Strategic Planning & Board Development Process
- Corrected 2 Fish Passage Barriers
- Restored over 1 mile of stream
- Created partnerships with 10 new partners



Trout being released after being rescued from dewatering area



REGION 5: South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

To protect and restore salmon populations and aquatic habitat with an emphasis on ecosystem function through scientifically informed projects, community education and volunteer involvement.

Overview

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) is a local voice for regional salmon recovery. SPSSEG restores salmon habitat while working with willing landowners. SPSSEG believes that by collaborating with communities in our region, we can increase salmon numbers in our rivers and streams. Working closely with state, federal, non-profit, local and tribal agencies, SPSSEG provides educational opportunities, technical assistance, construction services and pursues grant funding to find 'win-win' solutions for people and salmon. Our 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-regulatory, non-political, status helps SPSSEG get real results, real quick.

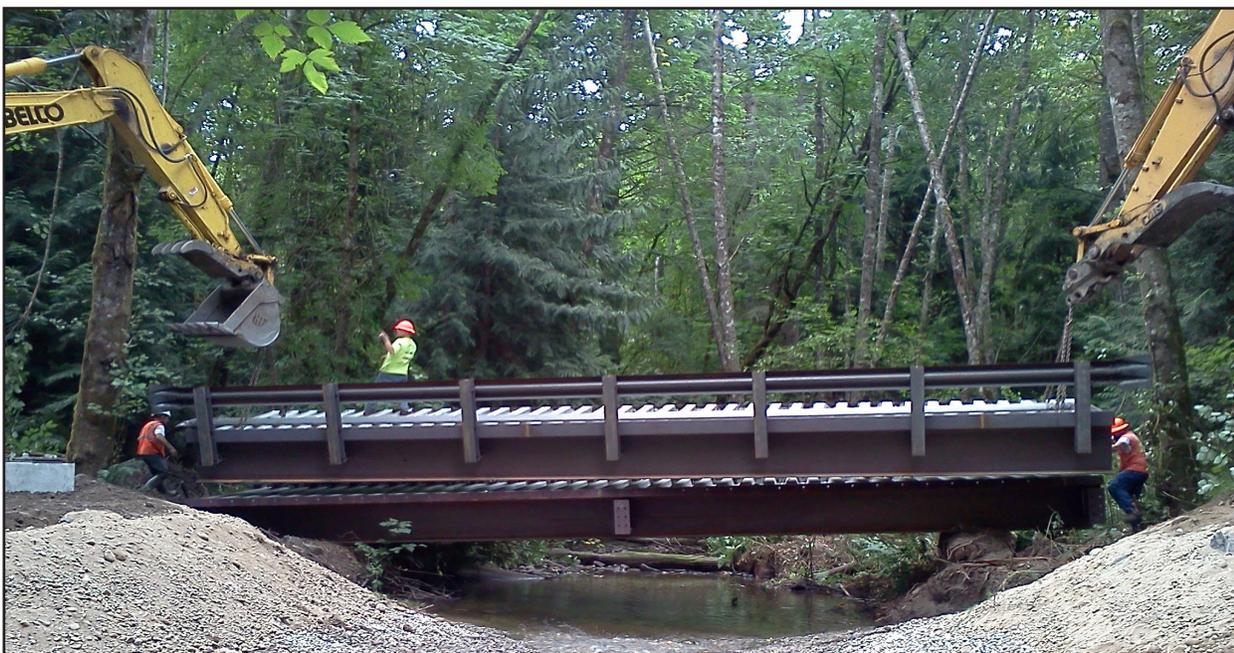
SPSSEG completes scientific assessments, monitoring, education and on-the-ground restoration projects with a professional staff and volunteer base that is located in the center of our region, Olympia, WA. Currently,

there are 5.5 employees and the annual budget ranges from \$1-\$3 million dollars per year. Projects vary in size, scope and complexity. SPSSEG overhead expenses are proportionally low compared to our program budget. In 2011-12, SPSSEG expended \$147,167 of RFEG funds and \$1,062,377 of other funds.

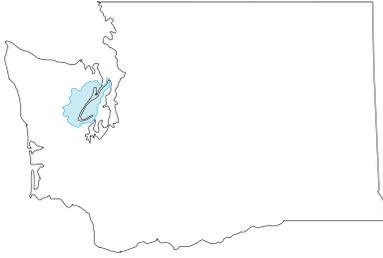
Program and Project Highlights

Recent projects include: Greenwater River ELJ and Road Removal Phase 2, Lower Ohop Valley Design, Allison Springs Estuary Restoration, Mission Creek Restoration Design, Boston Harbor/Gull Harbor Road Design and several Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) bridge projects.

SPSSEG's primary education and outreach activity includes the popular Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. Each year, 50 volunteer docents volunteer over 600 hours. Thousands of people visit the Trail to learn more about the salmon life cycle. SPSSEG also sponsors one Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) Individual Placement position and attends many other festivals throughout the region.



Bridge placement during Purdy Creek culvert removal



REGION 6: Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

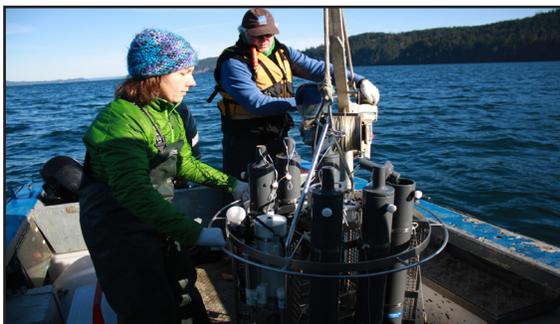
To perpetuate and enhance the genetic diversity and stocks of wild salmon in Hood Canal through the protection and restoration of salmon habitat, stewardship and research for watershed and marine ecosystems, community education and outreach and any other means appropriate. Adopted in 1990, modified in 1999, 2002 and 2003.

Overview

The region covered by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) includes all streams emptying into Hood Canal south of the Hood Canal floating Bridge. Among them, the Skokomish River is the largest drainage into Hood Canal and the Dosewallips, Duckabush, Hamma Hamma and Quilcene Rivers are also significant. These snow and glacier fed streams start high in the Olympic Mountains and descend steeply into the west side of the Hood Canal, creating very specific rearing conditions for salmon. Not surprisingly, most Hood Canal stocks are genetically distinct from Puget Sound and Coastal Salmon.

On the eastside of the Hood Canal, flowing from the Kitsap Peninsula, the streams are smaller than those of the westside and include some of the most intact salmon habitat on the Kitsap Peninsula. Among them are Big Beef Creek, Dewatto, Tahuya and Union rivers. These streams generally have more accessible spawning habitat and more extensive estuaries. The Hood Canal region supports fall chinook, summer chum, pink salmon, fall chum, coho, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat.

As an organization, we have utilized our state and



HCDOP water sampling - January 2012



Adventure Salmon Camp - Summer 2011

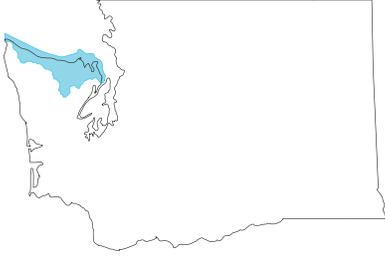
federal pass-through funds for basic infrastructure and support for the programs and projects we undertake. Each year we become better at approaching more extensive projects for salmon restoration.

Project Highlights

For the time period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the following are project highlights of the HCSEG.

- Big Quilcene Acquisition
- Little Quilcene River – Brush Plant Road Reach Restoration
- Donovan Creek Restoration
- Lower Tahuya River Reach LWD Placement
- Union River Estuary Restoration
- Knotweed Control and Riparian Enhancement
- The Dewatto Nutrifcation Study
- The Union River/Tahuya Summer Chum Project
- The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program
- Hood Canal Steelhead Supplementation Project
- Hood Canal GreenSTEM & Environmental Explorations
- Adventure Salmon Camp
- Boys & Girls Club Nature Camp
- Stream Team Internship Program
- Scholarships
- Research Internships
- Community Outreach
- Pacific Northwest Salmon Center

These wide ranging accomplishments would not be possible without our extraordinary volunteers, Board, members, staff and project partners that work diligently to restore wild salmon populations throughout Hood Canal.



REGION 7: North Olympic Salmon Coalition



Mission Statement

The mission of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is to restore, enhance and protect habitat of North Olympic Peninsula wild salmon stocks and to promote community volunteerism, understanding, cooperation and stewardship of these resources.

Overview

As a non-profit, community-based salmon recovery organization, North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) provides funding, guidance, technical assistance and ongoing support for salmon habitat restoration and enhancement. We partner with a variety of agencies, tribes, schools, community organizations, volunteers and landowners to work on key areas of wildlife habitat in Morse, Snow-Salmon, Chimacum Creeks and the rivers of the Western Strait of Juan De Fuca. Project areas include creek, river and nearshore ecosystems.

NOSC volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Volunteers continue to provide extensive volunteer labor support for the WDFW Snow Creek Coho Recovery Program, Spawner Surveys and monitoring of the summer chum adult trap on Salmon Creek. This year, volunteers dedicated over 1,577 hours to fish monitoring and enhancement projects in our region. In total, community members participated in over 16 events this year and donated over 2,994 hours in the streams, the office and in classrooms across our region.

With just over \$121,698 in RFEG base funding expenditures, NOSC raised an additional \$535,452 for our 2010-2011 fiscal year expenditures. This leverage rate reflects a big 'planning' year with no large capital projects on the ground. We are a leader in the restoration

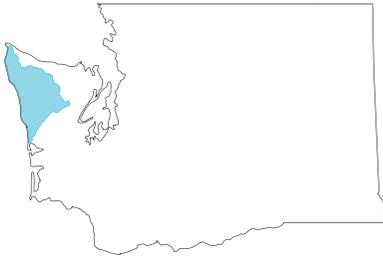
community in our area and have trust of citizens, tribes, governments, agencies, non-profits, funders and our lead entities for salmon recovery. Our strong education and outreach programs are one reason for this broad based support. Staff provide formal and informal training on biological monitoring, planting and invasive control. We conduct extensive community outreach before undertaking our capital projects and build community support for the projects we design as well as building a sense of stewardship for our resources in the local communities.

Program and Project Highlights

- Engaged community and partners in planning for four large-scale capital restoration projects (Discovery Bay, Kilisut Harbor, 3 Crabs/Dungeness and Salt Creek Estuary) and one small landowner culvert replacement project.
- Opened a satellite office to build capacity in the western part of our region.
- Assisted with large woody debris installation on ½ mile of Salt Creek.
- Restored 15 acres of stream habitat by planting over 11,000 trees and shrubs.
- Monitored 3 restoration sites (Salmon Estuary, Morse Creek, Pitship Pocket Estuary and collected fish data for co-managers for chum and coho on Chimacum Creek.
- Volunteers donated over 3,722 hours valued at \$78,189.
- NOSC educational programs reached over 1,385 students, visited 42 classrooms in 9 different schools throughout Jefferson and Clallam County.
- RFEG funds leveraged at 5:1.



75 volunteers who helped with the Snow Creek planting.



REGION 8: Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition



Mission Statement

The Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition is a regional fisheries enhancement group actively involved in local volunteer-based habitat restoration to achieve a healthy salmonid resource within our region.

Overview

The coverage area for the Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition (PCSC) includes the western portion of the Olympic Peninsula north of the Chehalis River drainage and south of Cape Flattery. This region covers parts of three counties: Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor. There are several significant rivers in this region including the Sol Duc, Calawah, Dickey and Bogachiel - Quillayute River complex, the Hoh River, the Queets River and the Quinault River. These rivers are glacial fed and have short, but steep drops to ocean. High levels of precipitation characterize the region and streams with cold water, high average flows and relatively long duration peak flows, including a second peak later in the year from snow melt.

Much of this area is within the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest, the state Experimental Forest or one of several Native American reservations. The majority of the land base in the river drainage is in timber production. The remaining land base is primarily a mixture of National Park and Native American reservation.

One of the primary challenges for PCSC is obtaining



Staff and volunteers at Elk Creek trailhead

volunteers in a very large area with very low population density. The challenges for the volunteers are to blend the needs of salmon with the area's economic dependence on logging and fishing. Because so much of the region is in public lands, efforts must be coordinated with various state, federal and tribal land managers.

However, because of this unique circumstance several beneficial partnerships have formed. To date, the Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition has formed partnerships with the Quillayute Tribe, the Hoh Tribe, the Makah Tribe, Quinault Tribe, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, WDFW, DNR, Forks Schools, Rayonier, Green Crow, Blodell, the City of Forks and numerous small private landowners.



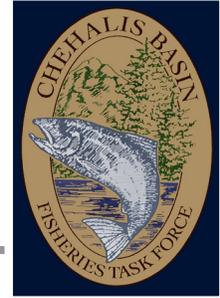
PCSC, WDFW and volunteers moving trout from Bogachiel Hatchery



Staff, Volunteers and DOC crew putting up the fascia on the Elk Creek "Ed Shed"



REGION 9: Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force



Mission Statement

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force and its many volunteers are dedicated to producing salmon for sport and commercial fisheries, enhancing Steelhead and Sea Run Cutthroat trout resources and restoring, enhancing and protecting stream habitat critical to these anadromous species.

Overview

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force (CBFTF) is a non-profit, community and volunteer based organization accomplishing on the ground activities for salmon and steelhead restoration, enhancement and protection efforts within the local communities of the Chehalis Basin.

Program Highlights

Onalaska High School FFA Aquaculture program, with 16 students, raised 106,000 Coho, 35,000 steelhead, 8,000 rainbow trout and 4,000 triploid trout. Last year's fish return was about 2,000 fish. 35,000 steelhead were released in Carlisle Lake. Volunteer hours total 4,790.

Satsop Springs Hatchery, in conjunction with the Bingham Hatchery, raised 400,000 chum, 475,000 Chinook, 450,000 coho and 3,200 rainbow trout. Satsop Spring Hatchery is currently raising 500,000 coho for Spring 2013 release and 7,000 rainbow trout for spring release. Volunteer hours total 2,066.



FFA students volunteer to raise fish

More than 1,058 salmon carcasses weighing close to 9,000 pounds were placed throughout the Satsop River watershed for nutrient enhancement

CBFTF Salmon Recovery Funding Board application, with match from Grays Harbor County, NACO and USFWS, was approved to remove a fish passage barrier and replace it with a bottomless arch culvert. This project made assessable more than 12 miles of habitat.

The Satsop Springs Hatchery Egg and Carcass program sold non-viable eggs and carcasses to generate more than \$22,000.00. Funds will be used at the Satsop Springs Hatchery for operation, improvements, maintenance and upgrades.



Davis Creek culvert removal - during construction



Davis Creek culvert removal - during construction



REGION 10: Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

To return sustainable naturally spawning salmon to the rivers and streams located in Willapa Bay by using remote site incubators (RSIs) to bring the streams and rivers back to their carrying capacities. Repairing and stabilizing habitat is being implemented as needed.

Overview

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group focuses on restoration of salmon habitat in Washington State's Pacific County, encompassing all of the streams that drain into Willapa Bay.

Our organization is run entirely by volunteers out of their homes and businesses, reflecting our desire to maximize the use of funds for salmon recovery projects.

The Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group was started in 1985 by local commercial fishermen who wanted to enhance the salmon population in Willapa Bay. Each year, using volunteers, WBFEG raised millions of salmon eggs, smolt and fry and releases them into the creeks and rivers around Willapa Bay.

Project Highlights

March Family Fish Spawning Channels and Rearing Ponds are located on the upper North River, 51 miles from where North River enters Willapa Bay. This project is all natural with the spawning and rearing channels being fed by water coming off the surrounding hills as well as water from North River. There were 300,000 coho salmon, 50,000 chum salmon and 10,000 marked steelhead released from the March Project in 2011.

- Willapa Bay Gillnetters Association; RSI's
- Oxbow Creek - 250,000 coho eggs
- Electric Creek - 100,000 chum eggs
- Fleece Creek - 50,000 chum eggs



Above: Instream RSI #1
Below: Instream RSI #2



Chum alevin



REGION 11: Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

To lead the process of salmon and steelhead recovery in a way that ensures community involvement in habitat restoration so that abundant, naturally reproducing salmon populations occur throughout the Lower Columbia River region.

Overview

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG) has been actively involved in salmon and steelhead habitat restoration and enhancement activities since our inception in 1991. The Lower Columbia River region covers all Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties. The major tributaries are the Cowlitz and Lewis River watersheds, both of which have extensive hydroelectric development. The Washougal, Kalama, Toutle, Grays and Elochoman River watersheds round out the remainder of our primary salmon producing watersheds.

To achieve our mission, LCFEG works with private and public land owners to restore salmon habitat and recover local salmon and steelhead populations. As a community-based non-profit organization, LCFEG receives valuable support from local citizens, students, NGO's, private property owners and local businesses who donate their time, materials and cash to help us leverage government grants. The support for our program is a reflection of our regions rich salmon history which has helped support our communities culturally as well as economically.



A young fish fling volunteer

The LCFEG focuses on four key programs to help us achieve our mission:

- 1) Habitat Restoration
- 2) Nutrient Enhancement
- 3) Education & Outreach
- 4) Assessment, Monitoring, Development

Project Highlights

- Duncan/Hamilton Springs
- Port of Kalama
- Lawton Creek
- Pleasant Valley
- Cowlitz Fill a/South Fork Toutle
- Dean Creek Restoration
- Lockwood Creek Restoration
- Woodward Creek Restoration
- Duncan Dam Design
- Hamilton Phase II
- Grays River Restoration
- Upper Washougal III Restoration
- Eagle Creek
- NFK Lewis 13.5 Restoration Phase I
- NFK Lewis 13.5 Restoration Phase II
- Grays 2D Design
- Nutrient Enhancement
- Germany Creek Nutrient Enhancement
- Hardy Creek Design
- 26,478 volunteer and offender crew hours were reported during the 2012 fiscal year.



Downstream view of new side channel/ island in Hamilton creek below Cascade drive bridge,



REGION 12: Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

The mission of the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is to restore self-sustaining salmon and steelhead populations through habitat preservation and restoration projects which assist landowners and promote community partnerships throughout our region.

Overview

Mid-Columbia Fisheries works with many project partners, volunteers, local landowners, agencies, funders, local governments and the Yakama Nation to protect and restore critical habitat for salmon and steelhead. In fiscal year 2012, we were able to leverage nearly six dollars for every one dollar of RFEG funding spent.

Project Highlights

- Jack Creek Restoration Reach 1
- Jack Creek Restoration Reach 2
- Upper Yakima Large Wood Replenishment
- Swauk Creek Floodplain Planting
- Nile Creek Culvert Removal
- Martha Creek Dam Removal
- Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

- Upper Rattlesnake Creek Restoration
- Wind River Road Decommissioning
- White Salmon River Clean-up

Education & Outreach Highlights

Beaver Education & Relocation promotes the natural role of beavers in creating salmon habitat. The project includes public presentations, landowner outreach, mitigation of beaver damage and beaver relocation.

The Wild Salmonid Task Force mitigates impacts to salmonids from river recreationists by direct contacts with anglers, removal of play dams, posting signs, and educating the public.

White Salmon River Watershed Education Project provides community outreach and school presentations on the river and the removal of Condit Dam.

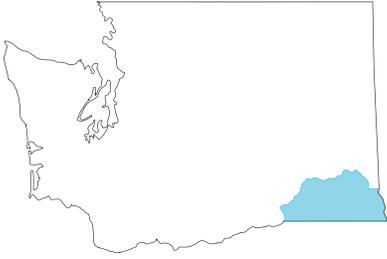
Educational events include Water Jam, Salmon Education Days, Salmon Summit, Teanaway River Fest, Earth Day, Arbor Day, E3 Winter Fair, Yakima Greenways River Festival, White Salmon River Homecoming, presentations to the public, school groups, summer camps, in-school “camps,” University programs and more.



A bobcat with an auger attachment assists with digging holes for riparian planting at the Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration project in Ellensburg.



“Nuisance” beavers are being moved from lowland agricultural areas to higher elevation headwaters habitat where their dam building activities benefit salmon habitat.



REGION 13: Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group



Mission Statement

At Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group our mission is to restore sustainable populations of native salmonids by enhancing habitat, providing public education and promoting recreational angling for future generations.

Overview

Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group (TSSSEG) has been actively involved in salmon and steelhead habitat restoration since its inception in the mid-1960s. The organization was granted 501(c)(3) status by Washington State in 1989 and was designated a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group in December 2000. As a community-based non-profit organization, we receive valuable support from a diverse membership that includes property owners, local businesses, anglers and concerned citizens.

The TSSSEG service district covers southeastern Washington, which includes Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties. Major watersheds within WRIs 32 and 35 include the Snake and Walla Walla Rivers. Our work focuses on restoring in-stream and riparian habitat and providing community outreach and education programs. Creating partnerships with landowners, government agencies and other conservation organizations is of paramount importance.

During the 2012 fiscal year TSSSEG completed 15 habitat restoration and three fish passage projects. In total, our volunteers donated 1,979 hours working on habitat enhancement projects and educational programs.

Program and Project Highlights

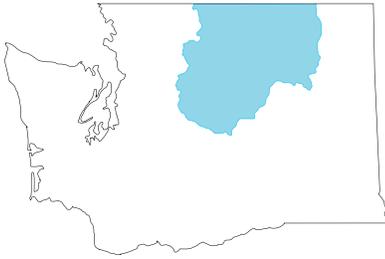
- 1,979 volunteer hours contributed.
- Thirty-one work parties held.
- Hosted five water quality, flow monitoring and riparian planting field trips for middle and high school students.
- Three major projects were completed to improve fish passage through the Mill Creek flood control channel.
- Kids Fishing Day event.
- Fourteen urban riparian buffers completed.
- Provided equipment to eight teachers for student collection of water quality data.
- Sponsored and coordinated salmon life cycle field trip for forty middle school students.
- Completed final designs for ½ mile of levee removal along the Walla Walla River near Lowden, WA.
- Coordinated Salmon in the Classroom rearing of eggs to fry in middle and high school classrooms.
- Conducted stream flow monitoring at six Department of Ecology gaging stations.



Weir notches like this one will improve fish passage during low flows in Mill Creek.



Walla Walla High School students test water quality in Mill Creek.



REGION 14: Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group



Mission

The 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.

Overview

As a community based salmon recovery organization CCFEG provides assistance to landowners for habitat restoration and stewardship and supports outreach and education activities in our community. Examples of CCFEG projects include; fish passage, in-stream, riparian planting and fencing, biological and engineering assessments, alternative stock-watering techniques, irrigation water source replacements, watershed planning, nutrient enhancement, school and community projects, and more (see below).

Partnership and collaboration is the key to our success. In addition to paid staff time, our volunteer Board of Directors and other volunteers have greatly contributed to our accomplishments. Thank you!

Project Highlights

Driscoll Island Riparian Planting – This project, near the confluence of the Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers helps address limiting factors (water temperature and habitat complexity) by planting 1,000' of native riparian vegetation along the Similkameen River.

Driscoll Island Cold Water Refuge Design – The objective of this project is to investigate sources of cool water and design off-channel refuge for juvenile salmonids. These channels would be available during a critical time of year when water temperatures in the main-stem Okanogan and Similkameen rivers are unfavorable to salmonid growth and survival.

Napeequa Riparian Planting and White River Interpretive Trail – This projects objective was to restore

native riparian vegetation along 600' of the Napeequa River and install six interpretive signs along the White River on existing trails.

Nutrient Enhancement Feasibility Study – The objective of this project was to investigate logistical and technical aspects of collecting, storing, screening, transporting and distributing excess hatchery-origin salmon carcasses throughout the Upper Columbia.

Wenatchee Nutrient Assessment Treatment Design – Our goal is to evaluate baseline conditions within the anadromous zone (water quality, periphyton, macro-invertebrates, etc.) establish goals or budgets for these indicators and develop a treatment and monitoring plan.

White River Large Wood Atonement – The objective of the White River Large Wood Atonement project is to accelerate floodplain recovery and enhance instream function in the lower White River.

Family Forest and Fish Passage Projects – Recently funded fish passage projects in Chelan and Okanogan Counties are in the design and permitting phase.

Salmon Lifecycle Landscape – Design an interpretive outdoor exhibit which represents the salmon's migration, ecological and cultural values.

Other Community Events – Twisp Salmon Celebration, Wenatchee River Salmon Festival, book signings and salmon films.

PUD/Dam Wood Collection – We're investigating ways to recycle wood from mainstem Columbia dams.



Earthcorps crew planting native riparian vegetation along the Napeequa River, Chelan County



Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition

Supporting and advocating for the RFEGs missions to protect, restore and enhance the salmonid resources of Washington State

The 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) formed a Coalition in 2003. The mission of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition (Coalition) is to serve and represent the RFEGs by supporting and advocating for their missions to protect, restore and enhance the salmonid resources of Washington State.

The purpose of the Coalition is to:

- To speak with one voice, to represent our accomplishments
- To interface with other groups, agencies and legislators on salmon recovery issues

The Coalition is comprised of a representative from each Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group. Our Coalition works to promote understanding of the value of the RFEG program.

Compilation of this Annual Report was funded by the RFEGC.

For more information on the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition, please see our website at www.rfeg.org.



Sauk River floodplain



<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/rfeg/>

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Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program

Annual Report for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012