



Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program



Washington
Department of
FISH and
WILDLIFE

Summary Report for July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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



Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program

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*Front cover photos provided by: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Back cover photo provided by: Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, Cascade Columbia Regional Fisheries
Enhancement Group, and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group*

Executive Summary

Dedicated to Community-Based Salmon Enhancement in Washington State

The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) are a statewide network of non-profit community-based salmon enhancement organizations. In 1990, the Washington State Legislature created the program as a grassroots approach to working with citizen volunteers and landowners to assist recovery of declining salmon populations. The purpose of the RFEG program is to engage local communities in restoring salmon and steelhead populations throughout Washington, and to enhance, restore and protect habitat for native stocks of fish.

Each RFEG works within a specific geographic region based generally on watershed boundaries (see map on page 6). Each group is an independent, non-profit organization led by their own board of directors and supported by their members and communities. The 14 RFEGs have a long history of leveraging additional support to implement on-the-ground enhancement projects in their regions. Volunteerism and dynamic partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, local businesses, citizen groups and landowners are at the heart of success of the program. These grassroots partnerships

efficiently extend the impact of base funding, often by 10-1, by engaging diverse partners and citizens in conservation efforts and stewardship of their watersheds.

Support through volunteerism, individual donations, and in-kind contributions from community members and businesses are essential to the success of each RFEG. Base funding for the RFEG program comes from a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a portion of commercial and recreational fishing license fees, and excess egg and carcass sales administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. RFEGs also obtain many grants for projects from other government and private entities.

Washington State's population is expected to continue to grow over the next decade, impacting the natural ecosystems of watersheds. RFEGs are the non-regulatory, grassroots organizations that are responding to the possible effects of this growth on fish and their habitat. For almost 25 years, RFEGs have engaged communities in salmon enhancement programs. These partnerships, and dedicated volunteers, are a vital component of the RFEG program and the broader goals of salmon recovery.

RFEG Economic Impact

An investment in RFEGs pays out over generations both ecologically and economically. Projects designed to improve the health of local watersheds also provide economic benefits to our communities through job creation and local spending. RFEGs employ local business to provide a wide range of family-wage jobs that includes heavy equipment operators, truckers, accountants, landscape architects, biologists, planners, and engineers.

The outcomes of our projects extend far beyond the ecosystem of the watershed. A recent study¹ found habitat restoration work generates approximately 23 jobs per \$1 million of public investment. RFEGs employed over 50 full-time staff statewide and contributed to nearly 400 additional jobs in the workforce last year. Every dollar spent on salaries or supplies impacts communities across the state as each dollar cycles through other parts of the economy.

¹ Nielsen-Pincus, M. and C. Moseley. 2010. "Economic and Employment Impacts of Forest and Watershed Restoration in Oregon." University of Oregon: Ecosystem Workforce Program, Working Paper Number 24.

A Message from the Board President



Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition

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

Greetings,

We are pleased to share our accomplishments with you this year! The collective impact of our program often gives new meaning to the phrase, “if you build it, they will come”, as salmon have been spotted making use of new habitat within days and sometimes hours of project completion.

This year we completed 162 projects and continue to thrive as an integral partner in salmon recovery in Washington. When RFEGs were created in 1990, work was done by volunteers who planted trees, and raised and released fish. Although volunteers remain the heart of the program, the size, scale, complexity and challenge of the projects the RFEGs are completing have increased exponentially. RFEGs are now implementing large-scale, complex projects that typically involve multiple private landowners and intergovernmental relationships on public lands.

Due to the complexity of partnerships and project elements, a typical restoration project often takes three to five years to implement. As the scope and scale of our work increases, the role of the coalition to share knowledge and expertise among ourselves and effectively engage our partners across the state becomes even more important. We conduct extensive outreach to build community support for our projects and are uniquely situated in our communities to implement meaningful education and monitoring programs. Whether it is in a K-12 classroom, a public recreational use site or a community event, our programs build trust and ignite a passion for salmon and future conservation efforts.

Statewide we have completed thousands of projects to improve or open up salmon habitat, released millions of salmon, and logged over 1.5 million volunteer hours since the inception of the program. We can't thank our partners, landowners, funders, and volunteers enough for making it all happen!

Sincerely,

Larry Zalaznik
Coalition Board President

Board Officers

Larry Zalaznik
Board President

Lance Winecka
Vice-President

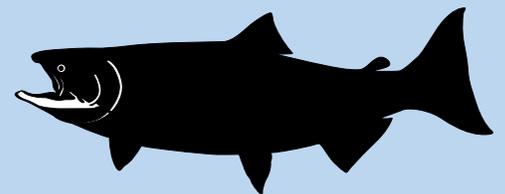
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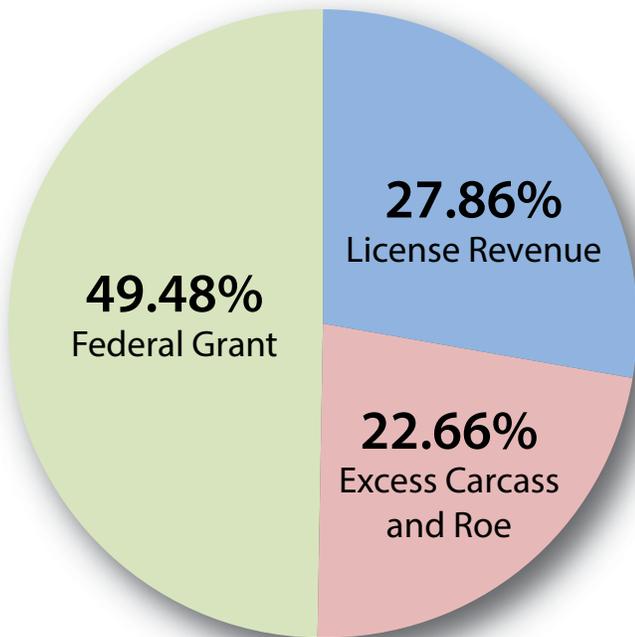
The 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) formed a Coalition in 2003 to showcase the collective achievements of the RFEG program and speak with a unified voice to our partners and stakeholders in salmon recovery. The Coalition is comprised of a representative from each RFEG and meets quarterly.

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

WDFW is a proud partner of the 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) and the RFE Coalition. Over the past 24 years, this program has grown from a collection of local volunteer groups to a sophisticated network of non-profit organizations that are a vital component of salmon recovery and enhancement in Washington. RFEs fill an important niche as a link between statewide salmon recovery efforts and the priorities and needs of individual communities. They also provide tremendous return on investment - for every dollar in state and federal RFE funding (see graph), they collectively secure an average of seven to ten dollars in outside grants, contributions, and volunteer labor for the benefit of salmon.

RFE Base Funding Sources Fiscal Year 2014



“Excess carcass and roe” is the sale of surplus salmon from state hatcheries.



RFEG Program Areas

Each year RFEGs build on the previous years' success in four key program areas.

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. These activities include: protecting and restoring riparian areas through the planting of native vegetation and removal of invasive species, the placement of woody debris to provide salmon cover and habitat diversity, and fish passage improvement so salmon may complete their migration. Working with local landowners to protect and enhance wild salmon in their native regions is the foundation for long-term salmon recovery.



Fisheries and Nutrient Enhancement

RFEGs participate in salmon production and nutrient enhancement projects to supplement natural fish production and increase the total number of fish. Every year, RFEGs raise tens of millions salmon eggs, smolt and fry and release them into creeks and rivers to enhance salmon populations. RFEGs also 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 assist the recovery of dwindling returns of natural-origin salmon and steelhead stocks. This work is invaluable in the recovery and survival of ESA listed salmonid stocks rearing in the headwaters of several watersheds.



Education and Outreach

RFEGs offer educational and outreach programs to engage community members in understanding salmon and the natural world to promote good stewardship now and also create the next generation of salmon conservationists. RFEGs engage citizens in programs to develop stewardship ethics, host a variety of internships, sponsor many crews of Washington Conservation Corps and Washington Service Corps members, and attend hundreds of festivals and events every year.

RFEGs offer educational programs to thousands of students each year giving local children the opportunity to get out of the classroom and apply Core Standards to real world examples. The RFEGs were also chosen by the Puget Sound Partnership through a competitive process to implement the Citizen Action Training School. This program is designed to increase civic participation, leadership, public engagement, and education to improve local ecological health, public awareness, water quality and aquatic habitat. RFEGs are uniquely situated in their communities to continue 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.



Assessment and Monitoring

One major threat to salmon recovery is the lack of data about fish and watershed health. This 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 of projects, and provide invaluable assistance to the co-managers in quantifying salmon populations.

RFEG ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2014 & TOTAL SINCE 1995

162
3,700

TOTAL PROJECTS
COMPLETED

78,570
1.6 MILLION

VOLUNTEER HOURS

2.9 MILLION
76.3 MILLION

FISH RELEASED INTO LOCAL
WATERSHEDS



\$14,718,579
\$192,753,730

FUNDS LEVERAGED THROUGH
DONATIONS AND GRANTS



38,093
1,123,124

SALMON CARCASSES RETURNED
TO STREAMS TO ADD NUTRIENTS
TO LOCAL WATERSHEDS

27
643

MILES OF SALMONID
HABITAT ENHANCED
AND RESTORED

154
1,069

MILES OF FISH
HABITAT OPENED

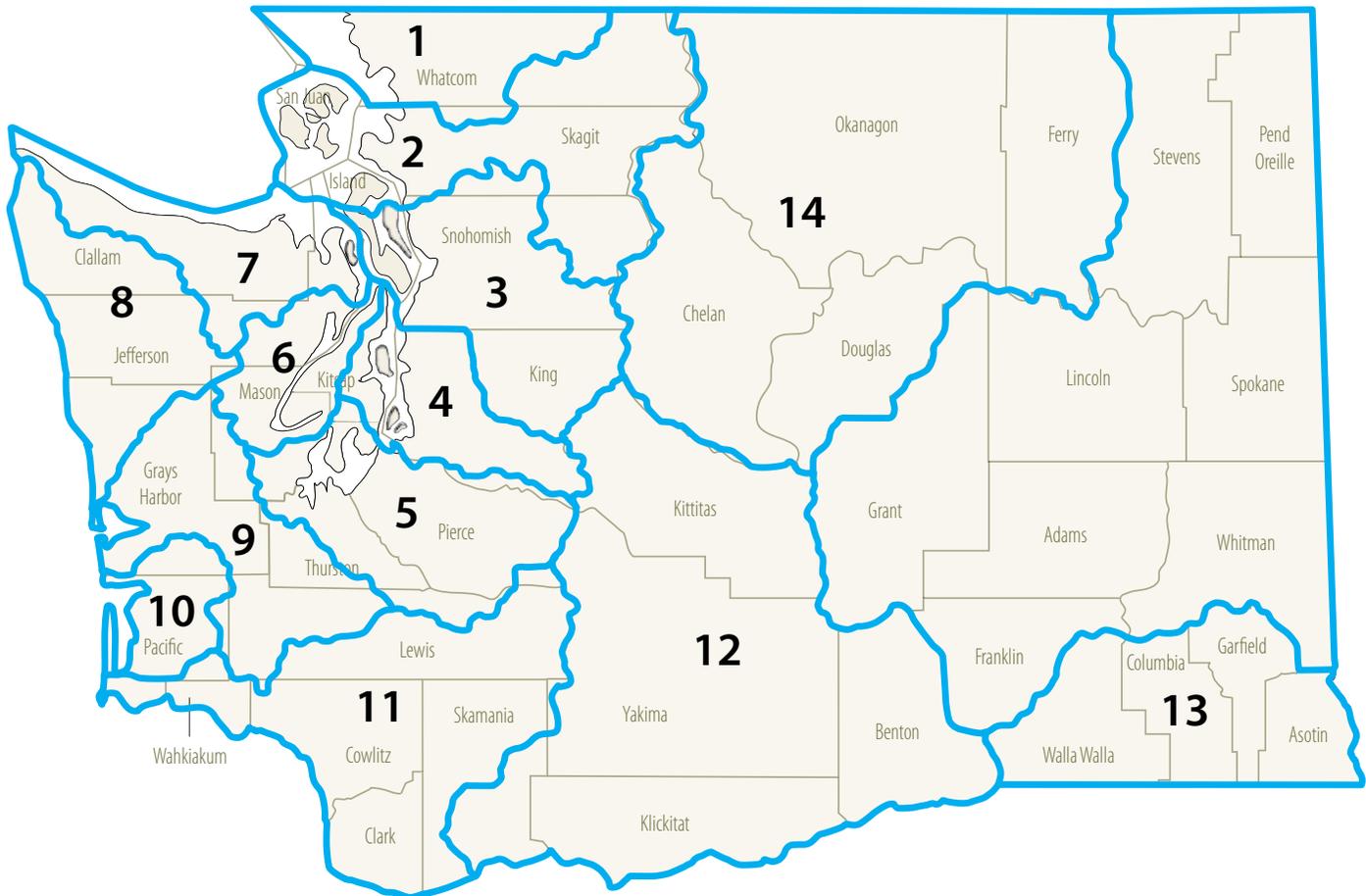
23
825

FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS
(INCLUDED IN TOTAL
PROJECTS)

RFEG Program Expenditures: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

RFEG Groups	RFEG Funds	Other Funds Leveraged	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Total
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association	\$146,875	\$1,039,709	22,337	\$596,845	\$1,783,429
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$146,982	\$1,550,270	8,680	\$231,923	\$1,929,175
Sound Salmon Solutions	\$142,760	\$1,443,073	2,302	\$24,048	\$1,609,881
Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$122,249	\$614,312	1,987	\$53,093	\$789,653
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	\$142,350	\$1,449,951	900	\$24,048	\$1,616,350
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$199,239	\$1,583,220	5,865	\$156,706	\$1,939,165
North Olympic Salmon Coalition	\$167,897	\$1,672,017	3,422	\$91,436	\$1,931,350
Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	\$90,231	\$546,968	2,851	\$76,179	\$713,378
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force	\$189,863	\$797,096	2,248	\$60,053	\$1,047,012
Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$62,940	\$0	1,213	\$32,411	\$95,351
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	\$130,112	\$1,415,190	19,459	\$519,944	\$2,065,247
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$171,203	\$614,931	4,773	\$127,535	\$913,668
Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group	\$103,336	\$1,272,915	2,089	\$55,825	\$1,432,076
Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$167,651	\$718,928	445	\$10,020	\$896,599
Totals	\$1,983,689	\$14,718,579	78,570	\$2,060,065	\$18,762,333

Geographic Boundaries



Region 1 - Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Region 1 includes most of WRIA 1 – The major watershed is the Nooksack River. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located from the Canada-U.S. border south to Oyster Creek in Samish Bay and also watersheds flowing from Whatcom County to the Fraser River.

Region 2 - Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Region 2 includes WRIAs 2, 3, and 4, and parts of 1 and 6 – the major watersheds are the Skagit and Samish Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located from Samish Bay, south of Oyster Creek, south to and including, Penn Cove on Whidbey Island, out to and including, the San Juan Islands.

Region 3 - Sound Salmon Solutions

Region 3 includes WRIAs 5 and 7 and parts of 6 and 8 – the major watersheds are the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located south of Penn Cove on Whidbey Island, including Camano Island and the mainland south to the Edmonds ferry docks.

Region 4 - Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Region 4 includes WRIAs 8 and 9 and part of 15 – the major watersheds are those entering Lake Washington and the Green/Duwamish River. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located from the Edmonds ferry dock south to Brown’s Point, across to the north side of Gig Harbor, and north around Foulweather Bluff down to the Hood Canal Bridge.

Region 5 - South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Region 5 includes WRIsAs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and parts of 15 – the major watersheds are the Puyallup, Nisqually, and Deschutes Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds draining into Puget Sound south of a line between Brown's Point and the north side of the entrance to Gig Harbor.

Region 6 - Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Region 6 includes WRIA 16 and parts of 14, 15, and 17 – major watersheds include the Skokomish, Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, Dosewallips, and Quilcene Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located in Hood Canal south of the Hood Canal Bridge.

Region 7 - North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Region 7 includes WRIsAs 18 and 19 and part of 17 – major watersheds include the Dungeness, Elwha, Lyre, Pysht, Clallam, and Hoko Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds located north and west of the Hood Canal Bridge to Cape Flattery.

Region 8 - Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition

Region 8 includes WRIsAs 20 and 21 – major watersheds include the Sooes, Ozette, Quillayute, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat and other watersheds entering directly into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Flattery and the north side of Grays Harbor.

Region 9 - Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

Region 9 includes WRIsAs 22 and 23 – major watersheds include the Humptulips, Hoquiam, Wishkah, Johns, Wynoochee, Satsop, Skookumchuck, Newaukum, Black and Chehalis Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat within and other watersheds flowing into Grays Harbor.

Region 10 - Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Region 10 includes most of WRIA 24 – major watersheds include the North, Willapa, Palix, Nemah, Bear, Long Island, and Naselle Rivers. This region also includes nearshore habitat within and other watersheds flowing into Willapa Bay.

Region 11 - Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Region 11 includes WRIsAs 25, 26, 27, and 28 and parts of 24 and 29 – major watersheds include the Chinook, Grays, Elochoman, Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Washougal Rivers. This region also includes Columbia River habitat and other watersheds entering the Washington side of the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam.

Region 12 - Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

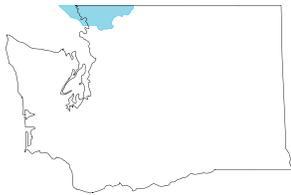
Region 12 includes WRIsAs 30, 31, 37, 38, 39, and 40, and most of 29 – major watersheds include the Little White Salmon, White Salmon, Wind, Yakima, and Klickitat Rivers. This region also includes Columbia River habitat and other watersheds entering the Columbia River from the north and west above Bonneville Dam up to Rock Island Dam.

Region 13 - Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group

Region 13 includes WRIsAs 32, 33, and 35, and parts of 34 and 36 – major watersheds include the Snake and Walla Walla Rivers. This region also includes Columbia River habitat and other watersheds entering the Columbia River from the east between McNary Dam and the Interstate 182 Bridge at Richland.

Region 14 - Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Region 14 includes WRIsAs 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 – major watersheds include the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, and San Poil Rivers. This region also includes Columbia River habitat and other watersheds entering the Columbia River above Rock Island Dam up to and including the San Poil watershed.



REGION 1: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association



Overview

Established in 1990, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) works cooperatively with landowners, agencies, tribes, businesses, service organizations, students, schools, and community volunteers 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, programs, and organizational goals. NSEA's Board and staff manage operations and the fiduciary responsibility of grants, contracts, and an annual budget.

Project and Program Highlights

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) completed the following:

Restoration Projects

Seventeen salmon habitat restoration projects were implemented, resulting in 10,500 feet of riparian restoration, and included the planting of 11,853 native trees and shrubs.

Twenty-two large woody debris structures were installed to provide improved quality of instream habitat for salmon.

Three fish passage barriers were removed, resulting in access to two miles of habitat to salmon.

Programs

Volunteer Community Work Parties

Monitoring

Water Quality

Washington Conservation Corps

Washington Service Corps

Environmental Internships

Students for Salmon, Elementary Education Program

Middle School Service Learning Program

Swimming Upstream, High School Education Program

Liam Wood Flyfishers & River Guardians

Nooksack River Stewards

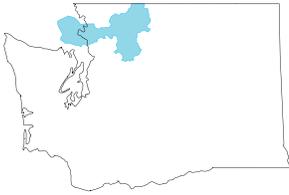
Citizen Action Training School (CATS)



Volunteers working together on Make a Difference Day at Canyon Creek to restore riparian habitat.



Students for Salmon Program's Stream Scientists examine their macroinvertebrate samples they obtained from Fishtrap Creek.



REGION 2: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Overview

The Board, staff and volunteers of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group are striving to leave the Skagit Valley and our surrounding region better than it was when we started. Our restoration and education programs are accomplishing this one person, one project, one landowner, and 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 this work will lead to better habitat, cleaner waterways, and healthier ecosystems for all living things now and the future.

Project and Program Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Habitat Enhancement	
Riparian plantings	2.5 miles, 35,646 plants, 148 acres
Riparian maintenance	210 acres
Habitat opened	5.5 miles
Miles of river and tributaries protected from knotweed infestation	76 miles surveyed
Community Outreach	
Community education	8,700 individuals
Volunteer involvement	8,680 hours
Kids educated	1,801 students

Fish Passage Improvement

Four fish passage improvement projects were completed and opened over 5.5 miles of habitat to salmon and steelhead. These projects were funded by grants from the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and brought over \$550,000 to the local economy to employ local people, purchase products from local vendors and contract with heavy equipment operators. These projects were located at Silver Creek, East Fork Silver Creek, Bridle Creek, and Summer Creek.

Riparian Restoration

Volunteers and staff worked with many partners to restore over 55 sites and assisted 44 landowners by removing non-native invasive plants and planting over 35,636 native trees and shrubs along streams, rivers and shorelines. These projects improve water quality in our watersheds, as well as help salmon and over 130 other species of wildlife that depend on healthy riparian areas for survival.

Community Outreach

Encouraging community involvement is a major priority for the on-going stewardship of our watersheds. Providing diverse and fun ways to involve volunteers in learning and participating in habitat restoration activities is one way we hope to ensure healthy watersheds for future generations.

Education

Education is the key to ensuring that our next generation of leaders are enthusiastic and passionate about protecting and conserving our watersheds. Our education programs engaged over 1,800 youths in hands-on learning experiences in order to inspire the future stewardship of salmon resources. Our three main student education programs are Junior Stream Stewards, Salmon in the Classroom, and Kids in Creeks.



Spawner survey volunteer walks Ennis Creek



REGION 3: Sound Salmon Solutions



Overview

Founded in 1990, Sound Salmon Solutions is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, registered as a charitable organization with the Washington Secretary of State as the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force (SSFETF). Our collaborative partners and supporters are represented by federal, state and local government agencies, commercial and recreational fishing interest groups, conservation organizations, local Native American tribes, area businesses, landowners and concerned citizens. The geographic region we serve, all of Snohomish County, northeast King County and southern Island County, totals over 3,000 square miles. Our work also includes marine waterways in Port Susan, Port Gardner Bay, Possession Sound, and the Saratoga Passage, south of Elger Bay.

Project and Program Highlights

Habitat Restoration and Volunteer Program

Staff engaged in 14 riparian habitat restoration projects on 19.75 acres where 1,400 volunteer hours were donated during 18 volunteer events to plant a total of 12,518 native plants. WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, WA Department of Ecology, WA State Parks, Snohomish Conservation District, King Conservation District, City of Arlington, Ducks Unlimited, Girl Scout Camp River Ranch, Seattle City Light, Stillaguamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, and King County Flood Control District all provided funding for the projects. In addition, staff contacted 14 new landowners and initiated 6 new projects.

Nutrient Enhancement Program

Nutrient enhancement was revived for the 2013-2014 year by our WCC Individual Placement (IP) Intern. The Stillaguamish Tribe's hatchery donated 30 carcasses which were distributed by our IP intern and a handful of volunteers. Staff will continue to work with the Stillaguamish Tribe in an effort to revitalize the nutrient enhancement program.

Education and Outreach Program

Staff coordinated a 100-person education and outreach

event to promote clean water and educate the general public on water quality impacts on shellfish and salmon.

Education staff taught 1,188 students through 42 classroom and field trip lessons throughout King and Snohomish counties. The majority of events included service learning involving erosion lessons and native planting field trips. Staff also coordinated a collaborative Puget Sound Starts Here campaign of 5 events and several field trips. Outreach efforts throughout the year were increased thanks to funding from the Snoqualmie Tribe and Burning Foundation. The funding also provided for a new outreach board, new brochures and attendance at over 30 events throughout Snohomish, King and Island counties.



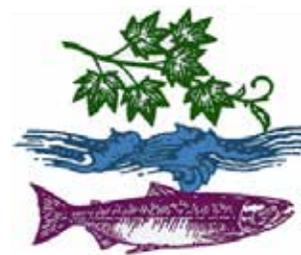
Classroom and field trip lessons throughout King and Snohomish Counties teach students about erosion and native planting.



Sound Salmon Solutions engages the local community in habitat restoration



REGION 4: Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group



Overview

Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (Mid Sound), founded in 1991, helps volunteers representing businesses, local governments, tribes and environmental organizations to engage in on-the-ground stream restoration projects. The geographic region includes the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish River basin (WRIA 8), Green/Duwamish and central Puget Sound basin (WRIA 9) and streams draining along the eastern side of Kitsap County (WRIA 15).

Since 1991, Mid Sound has implemented over 275 projects, including streamside fencing, native tree and shrub planting, fish passage improvements, wetland restoration, fish enhancement, monitoring & research, and education & training events. Each of these projects serves as a catalyst to building community partnerships in Puget Sound. Together, these partnerships contribute invaluable time and resources for the recovery of Pacific Northwest salmon.

Project and Program Highlights

Completing the Gorst Creek Restoration project in WRIA 15. Installed a total of 35 pieces of large woody debris (LWD), planted nearly 500 native trees and shrubs, and reconnected portions of the stream with the floodplain.

Conducting a successful Citizen Action Training School (CATS). 29 citizen participants received 50 hours of training over 3 months in the ecology of Puget Sound Recovery, CATS program participants learn about the complex maze of regulations that affect the human and natural communities. Each participant committed to volunteering at least 50 hours to complete a service project in their community—resulting in over 1500 hours volunteered so far. This project was sponsored by the Puget Sound Partnership and managed by Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association.

Monitoring fish use. Continued Coho smolt trapping on Big Spring Creek, the most important salmon-bearing

tributary to Newaukum Creek in WRIA 9. Our part of pre and post project monitoring gauges the importance of a variety of restoration projects on Newaukum creek.

Providing assistance to contractors and landowners to protect fish. We helped individual landowners implement projects to protect fish - such as designing and installing specialized fencing to keep sheep from entering the stream at a stream crossing. We also provided expertise to contractors working on in-stream construction projects - such as assisting with stream diversion to protect fish from entrapment while road crews worked to correct fish passage barriers.



Gorst Creek Floodplain, 1st day of construction



Gorst Creek Floodplain & mid-channel Apex Jam after construction



REGION 5: South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group



Overview

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) is a local non-profit voice for regional salmon recovery. From the highest peaks in the Cascades, to the fertile shorelines and estuaries of South Puget Sound, SPSSEG restores salmon habitat while working with willing landowners. SPSSEG believes that by collaborating with local communities in King, Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston, and Mason Counties, we can increase salmon numbers in our rivers and streams. Working closely with state, federal, non-profit, local, private, and tribal agencies, SPSSEG provides education 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, very quickly.

SPSSEG completes many scientific assessments, monitoring, education, and on-the-ground restoration projects each year with a professional staff and volunteer base that is located in the center of our region, Olympia, WA. Other cities include Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and Shelton. Currently, there are 4.5 employees and the annual budget ranges from \$1million-\$3million dollars per year. Projects vary in size, scope, and complexity. Some organizational base funding comes from state and federal sources but the majority comes directly from competitive grants and in-kind donations. SPSSEG overhead expenses are proportionally very low compared to our program budget. In 2013/14, SPSSEG expended \$142,760 of RFEG funds and \$1,443,072 of other funds.

Project and Program Highlights

Recent project highlights include: Greenwater River ELJ's, Lower Ohop Valley Restoration, Clearwater River ELJ's, Middle Goldsborough Restoration, Mission Creek Restoration, and Sequelitchew Creek Restoration planning.

SPSSEG's primary education and outreach activity includes the popular Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. Each year, volunteer docents volunteer over 600 hours, and 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 schools and festivals throughout the region.



Mission Creek during excavation



Educational outreach at the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail



Mission Creek after construction



REGION 6: Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group



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.

HCSEG works with numerous partners on habitat restoration projects and programs. These partners have been working together for over 20 years to make a better future for the wildlife and communities of Hood Canal. HCSEG has utilized state and federal funding for basic infrastructure and support for the numerous programs and projects we undertake. HCSEG also relies upon local agencies, businesses, community organizations and individuals to support its numerous programs and projects. Local, hands-on community involvement is essential to our success. Each year, HCSEG works harder to complete more extensive projects for salmon habitat restoration.

Project and Program Highlights

Habitat Restoration

- Big Quilcene Delta Acquisition & Restoration
- Little Anderson Creek IMW – Phase 3
- Big Quilcene Master Plan
- Lower Chinom Creek Restoration
- Donovan Creek Acquisition & Restoration
- Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration
- Dosewallips Estuary Barge Removal
- Lower Tahuya River Large Wood Placement – Phase 2
- Knotweed Control and Riparian Enhancement
- Union River Estuary Restoration Project

Outreach and Education

- Citizen Action Training School
- Hood Canal ECONet Social Marketing - Crab Retention
- Salmon in the Classroom
- StreamTeam Internship Program

- Research Internships
- Weaving Wisdom Day Camp
- West Sound GreenSTEM 2014

Monitoring and Research

- Belfair Storm Water Study
- Hood Canal Steelhead Research & Supplementation Project
- Hood Canal OSS Nutrient Reduction
- Union River Estuary Restoration Monitoring

Fish Production

- Fall Chum Supplementation – Hood Canal
- Union River/Tahuya River Summer Chum Restoration

These wide ranging accomplishments would not be possible without our dedicated partners, volunteers, Board of Directors, members and staff that work tirelessly together to restore wild salmon populations throughout Hood Canal. Their work is vitally important to preserving wild salmon for generations to come.



Salmon in the Classroom - North Mason Elementary fall chum fry release



Union River Estuary Restoration - after - October 2013



REGION 7: North Olympic Salmon Coalition



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. Our region includes the watersheds along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, extending from the Hood Canal Bridge west to Cape Flattery. We partner with a variety of agencies, tribes, schools, community organizations, volunteers and landowners to work on key areas of wildlife habitat. Project areas include creek, river and nearshore ecosystems.

NOSC volunteers are the backbone of our organization. In total, community members participated in over 61 events this year, and donated over 3,420 hours in the streams, the office, and in classrooms across our region.

With just over \$167,897 in RFEG base funding expenditures, NOSC raised an additional \$1,672,017 for our 2013-2014 fiscal year expenditures. 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. 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.

Project and Program Highlights

Habitat Restoration

-Engaged community and partners in planning for six capital restoration projects (Lower Discovery Bay Restoration, Kilisut Harbor Restoration, 3 Crabs/ Dungeness Estuary Restoration, Hoko Estuary Restoration, Dawley Shoreline Restoration, and Matriotti Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal)

-Lower Discovery Bay Restoration Project- Completed Phase 1 of the Lower Discovery Bay Restoration Project by relocating a waterline to an area outside of the estuary and marine shoreline.

-3 Crabs Estuary Restoration Project- Completed Phase

1 of the 3 Crabs Nearshore Restoration by removing building infrastructure on the site of a future 58 acre estuary restoration project.

-Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project- Worked with engineers to develop 30% design to restore 27 acres of salt marsh habitat and reconnect Oak Bay to Kilisut Harbor.

-Jefferson and Clallam County Riparian Restoration- Restored 5 acres of stream habitat by planting over 9,200 trees and shrubs.

-Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project- Engaged landowners to remove invasive butterfly bush and plant native vegetation. NOSC removed 2 acres of butterfly bush on private properties along the river.

Outreach and Education

-Snow Creek Social Marketing Project- NOSC conducted a social marketing project in partnership with WSU to increase landowner buy-in to restoration actions along Snow Creek. The project initiated restoration actions on 2,400 lineal feet of Snow Creek streambank.

-Volunteers donated over 3,420 hours valued at \$91,436.

-NOSC educational programs reached over 967 students in 61 classrooms throughout Jefferson and Clallam County.

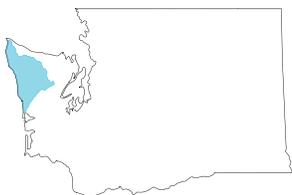
Monitoring and Research

-Morse Creek Riverine Restoration Monitoring- Year 3- Post-project construction monitoring occurred on Morse Creek to observe changes that have occurred two years after completion of the project.

-Salmon Spawner Survey Program- Spawning surveys for summer chum and coho took place with volunteers in the Chimacum watershed in cooperation with WDFW.



WCC crew installs a deer fence around the NOSC native plant nursery.



REGION 8: Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition



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. 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 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 challenges is obtaining volunteers in a very large area with a very low population. Our volunteers blend the needs of salmon with an economic dependence on logging and fishing. Because so much of the region is public land, our efforts must be coordinated with various state, federal, and tribal land managers. Several beneficial relationships have formed because of this unique circumstance such as partnerships with the Quileute Tribe, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, WDFW, DNR, Forks School system, Rayonier, Green Crow, Blodell, the City of Forks, and numerous small private landowners.

Project and Program Highlights

Cranberry Creek Barrier Removal

This project removed a barrier culvert on a tributary to Cranberry Creek and replaced it with a 40' X 14' Big R bridge set about 6' higher than the old road grade. Wood and gravel were added to the stream to maintain pond elevation and allow fish passage under all flow conditions and life stages. Correction of this barrier opened 2.9 miles of potential habitat for coho, searun cutthroat and Olympic mud minnow.

Coal Creek Restoration

The Coal Creek project was a Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) restoration project in Clallam County on Coal Creek, a tributary to the Dickey River. The project removed an undersized, deteriorating, and perched pipe and replaced it with a 60' bridge. The new structure allows fish passage under all flow conditions. The

new bridge on Coal Creek is on the 5000 line, a well-used logging road. The removed structure was a perched and undersized 96" corrugated metal pipe. The average stream width upstream is 14 feet with a 20 inch outfall drop that plunged directly onto large rip rap, placed to protect the road, but created an obstacle to migrating salmonid. The culvert was replaced with a 60' rapid span steel and concrete bridge, wood and gravel were added to the stream to enhance the habitat, and the entire site was planted with native vegetation with an interpretive sign installed at the project site.



Coal Creek bridge after construction

Nutrient Enhancement Program

The nutrient enhancement program, although implemented, suffered because of poor returns. The Sol Duc had another poor fall Coho run resulting in a significant reduction in carcass placement and need for volunteers. We placed a total of 6301 carcasses from Bogachiel and Sol Duc back into the Quillayute system and provided 1526 fish to the local food bank. This project would not be possible without willing landowners, volunteers, and the support and cooperation of the local hatcheries and WDFW.

Knotweed Program

The knotweed program utilized crews to remove invasive weeds such as knotweed, reed canary grass, fox glove and herb robert. We subsequently replanted areas that had been sprayed to reestablish native plant growth. We utilized OCC crews and volunteers to remove scotch broom and replant the area with native vegetation along just over 2 miles of the Hoh River. The success of this program is very dependent on our partnership with 10,000 Years Institute, DOC and the cooperation of willing landowners.



REGION 9: Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force



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.

Project and Program Highlights

- Satsop Springs raised and/or released 160,000 chinook, 405,000 coho, and 200,000 chum
- Satsop Springs nutrient enhancement totaled 1,429 carcasses weighing a total of 7,370 pounds
- Satsop Springs water testing produced four quarterly DMR reports submitted to WDFW and Ecology.
- Carlisle Lake Project aquaculture class at Onalaska High School raised and released 106,000 coho and 30,000 steelhead
- Carlisle Lake Project aquaculture class nutrient enhancement totaled 2,050 carcasses
- Carlisle Lake Project aquaculture class had 17 students last year who clocked 2,809 hours of hands on science education
- Completed three SRFB projects opening up 9.5 miles of habitat
- Completed one FFFPP project opening up 1.55 miles of habitat
- Nine FFFPP and SRFB past year's projects were monitored
- Five FFFPP and three SRFB projects received pre-project assessment
- 2,248 volunteer hours



Failed culvert in Cedar Creek



Failed culvert removed



Installation of new culvert in Cedar Creek



Completed Cedar Creek project



REGION 10: Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group



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 business, 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 fisherman who wanted to enhance the salmon population in Willapa Bay. Each year, using volunteers, WBFEG raised millions of salmon eggs, smolts and fry and releases them into the creeks and rivers around Willapa Bay.

We are now using remote site incubators (RSIs) to supplement local coho and chum runs, to increase the number of juvenile out-migrants. We are also installing spawning beds, which will enable the returning coho and chum adults from our RSIs to spawn naturally and increase natural production in the watershed.

Project and Program Highlights

The WBRFEG continued its two-decade long relationship with the March Family Fish Farm, which provides spawning and rearing habitat on a tributary to the North River. In FY13 the on-site spawning channel underwent a significant upgrade and restoration to maintain its effectiveness. WBFEG looks forward to continuing this relationship with the March Family Fish Farm for the benefit of local coho salmon, chum salmon, and steelhead populations.

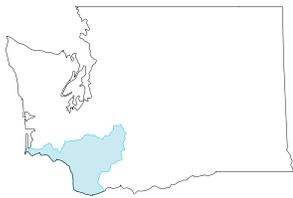
A new spawning channel was installed in the head waters of Russian Creek, a tributary to Salmon Creek, which flows into the Naselle River. It is hoped that this spawning channel will be used by returning coho that were incubated in RSIs - over 200,000 coho eggs were incubated the previous year.

WBRFEG also supports a nutrient enhancement partnership between WDFW and local volunteers. Over 7,000 carcasses from local hatcheries were distributed throughout the Willapa, Naselle, and Nemah rivers. These salmon carcasses return important nutrients to the stream and provide the basis for the food web that supports the next generation of salmon.

This year we engaged in planning and securing funding for a large scale habitat restoration project on the Naselle River. This project, which includes bank stabilization and the installation of in-stream log structures, is being pursued in partnership with the Willapa Conservation District and more than 50 local landowners. Construction was scheduled for the summer of 2014, and will be reported as a completed project in FY15.



Naselle River spawning channel



REGION 11: Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group



Overview

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG) has been actively involved in salmon habitat restoration and nutrient enhancement since its inception in 1991. Spanning five counties, with diverse watersheds in both rural and densely populated communities, the region has rich history of salmon and steelhead runs. Salmon is a cultural and economic resource that sustains our communities.

LCFEG has five programs: Habitat Restoration, Nutrient Enhancement, Riparian Nursery and Planting, Outreach and Education, and lastly, Monitoring, Design and Development. Utilizing these focus areas we can identify how best to leverage the most out of each project and contribute the most to our community and ecosystem. In 2014, the LCFEG completed six projects and continued work on 20 additional for a total of 26 habitat restoration projects worked.

Project and Program Highlights

We engage volunteers in numerous year-round activities ranging from planting parties, educational presentations, on-site data collection to meet monitoring objectives, and participation at conventions, fairs, salmon celebrations and community events.

The LCFEG Native Nursery & Volunteer Program

There is no greater example of the marriage of teaching science and restoration efforts than that of the Hudson's Bay High School and the LCFEG. Since 2011, Hudson's Bay has been home to LCFEG's first native plant nursery. In addition to a comprehensive natural resources curriculum, students gain hands-on skills and a deeper appreciation and understanding that salmon are the cornerstone of our ecosystem. Students propagated a majority of the plants (approximately 30,000 per year) for our projects. The native nursery program has grown threefold since its inception and now supports our projects and donations to other restoration efforts.

In-Stream Habitat Project Highlight: South Fork Toutle Phase 3

This restoration project is located near the small town of Toutle, WA in Cowlitz County. The site is severely

degraded including removal of large wood from the uplands, floodplain and channels before and after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. The lack of stable deposits of large wood and mature riparian and upland forests in this watershed has resulted in high rates of sediment input from eroding stream banks. The consequence is poor habitat that limits the spawning, egg incubation and juvenile life stages of chinook, coho and winter steelhead. This project addressed these limiting factors by installing large wood structures in the channel and along the shorelines and installing 10,000 native plants along key areas of the shoreline. Monitoring of three earlier projects on the South Fork Toutle dating back to 2007 indicate this project will result in more pools, better spawning and rearing conditions, increased channel stability and a stable environment for riparian plant colonization in the active floodplain. Project landowners/ partners are Weyerhaeuser and residents in Steelhead Landing subdivision.



Construction of new channels at South Fork Toutle in Summer 2013



South Fork Toutle after construction in Fall 2013



REGION 12: Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group



Overview

Mid-Columbia Fisheries implements high-quality habitat restoration and protection projects and provides education and community outreach programs that promote the long-term commitment our society needs to protect fisheries resources. The Mid-Columbia region includes the Wind, White Salmon, Klickitat, and Yakima Rivers and their tributaries.

Project and Program Highlights

Accomplishments during this reporting period include:

- Habitat restoration - 9 miles of streams improved through channel work, log placement, and beaver release
- Riparian plantings - 22,400 native plants installed on 9 projects along streams and rivers in our region
- Fish passage - 106 miles of rivers and streams opened to fall spawning through removal of 56 illegal “play dams”

Monitoring

- 36 streams and rivers monitored for habitat
- 16 redd surveys on 9 rivers and tributaries

Outreach, Education & Volunteer Involvement

- Volunteer involvement - 4,773 hours of volunteer time donated for planting, monitoring, stream clean-up, and education

- Students involved / educated - 2,646 k-12 students participated in hands-on projects
- River users educated - 450 people educated about habitat and species conservation through direct contact at streams, rivers, and boat launches. An additional 530 recreationists were reached via campground presentations.



Volunteers removed garbage from Wilson Creek as part of a 2014 clean-up effort. A larger restoration project is planned for this site in 2015.



A Washington Conservation Corps crew planting native trees along Swauk Creek, Fall 2013.



REGION 13: Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group



Overview

Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group has been actively involved in salmonid 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 Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group (TSS) focuses on restoring and enhancing in-stream and riparian habitats, and providing community outreach and education programs. Creating partnerships with landowners, government agencies and other conservation organizations is of paramount importance.

Project and Program Highlights

Habitat Restoration

- Two projects removed ½ mile of levee, installed 73 large wood structures, and planted 1,200 trees, improving instream and riparian habitat for 1.25 stream miles, and improving floodplain connectivity and function on 20 acres
- One fish passage project completed in an urban flood control channel
- Eleven urban stream projects treated 2,800 feet of stream bank and installed 1,143 plants
- Volunteer hours: 915

Outreach & Education

- Five classroom visits reached 244 elementary and middle school students with lessons on salmon lifecycle, watersheds, native plants, riparian habitat, and aquatic invertebrates
- Restoration project tours and classroom lectures for 26 local college students

- One presentation to 19 inmates at Walla Walla Penitentiary on regional salmon resources and recovery efforts
- Classroom contact hours: 328
- Two Kid's Fishing Day events
- Homeowner workshops on rain gardens and native plant use
- Landowner education pamphlet on knotweed was created, distributed by mailing
- Trout in the Classroom: 3 tanks at 3 schools

Monitoring & Research

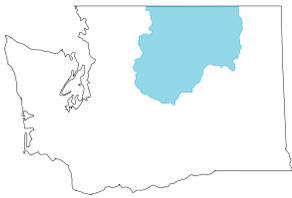
- Began temperature monitoring at 15 local streams
- Conducted performance monitoring at nine projects

Fish Production

- Supported the WDFW Jumbo Trout program through purchase of fish food, resulting in 4,000 jumbo trout stocked in regional lakes and ponds
- Trout in the Classroom: 225 fish released



Volunteers of all ages pitch in to widen the riparian buffer on Yellowhawk Creek with native plants.



REGION 14: Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group



Overview

Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group's (CCFEG) nine member volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic direction to the organization. CCFEG focuses on two primary areas; habitat restoration and education. Typical habitat projects include; fish passage improvements, in-stream habitat restoration/enhancement, riparian planting and fencing, biological and engineering assessments, and nutrient enhancement. Our education program offers organized school activities such as fish dissection and water quality testing. We also host public forums on topics involving salmon and watershed health.

Thanks to our partners, volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors for a successful year!

Project and Program Highlights

Fish Passage Projects: We replaced 2 fish passage barriers that resulted in improved access to 7.88 miles of habitat for native fish, and have two more projects in process to remove 3 fish passage barriers to eventually result in improved access to 6.3 miles of habitat for native fish. We also completed the Twenty Five Mile Creek Design with an alternatives analysis for improving fish passage through a barrier culvert for kokanee and west slope cutthroat.

Habitat Restoration: To date we have planted 1,260 native plant/tree species along 1,510 feet of the Methow River totaling 2.2 acres. The second phase will take place during the fall of 2014. We also planted 220 native tree species along approximately 700' of Clear Creek, a small steelhead bearing tributary to the Chiwawa River. The White River Large Wood Atonement project is under construction to install pilings and whole trees throughout a 1.6 mile reach of the lower White River to improve habitat for ESA listed spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. We have completed three design project designs improve habitat water quality and justification for nutrient enhancement, and have several assessments in process.

Outreach and Education: A total of 1,882 children and adults were engaged in CCFEG's education program

during the fiscal year. Depending on the type of event or activity, individuals were taught about the Endangered Species Act, local fish stocks and their habitat, water quality, fish anatomy and ecology, and other lessons about the 4-H's (habitat, hatcheries, hydropower and harvest).

A special thank you to our project partners:

Bureau of Reclamation, Chelan County Natural Resources, Chelan PUD, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Family Forest and Fish Passage Program, Friends of NW Hatcheries, Grant PUD, Icicle Fund, North Central WA Comm. Foundation, PACE Engineering, Plain Fly Tyers, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Trout Unlimited-Icicle Chapter, Trout Unlimited-Washington Water Project, USFWS, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Natural Resources, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Yakama Nation



East Fork Tunk Creek fish passage project (before and after)

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**For additional information about the RFEG Program, visit
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/rfeg/>**



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Washington
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**FISH and
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Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition

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

