

Family Forest Fish Passage Program



FACT SHEET

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It's Working



More than 480 miles of stream have been opened by 2011 for salmon to feed, grow, and reproduce.

Who can apply?

Private, small forest landowners, if:

- They have less than 2 million board feet of timber harvested each year from land they own in Washington.

- The fish barrier is on forested land and a fish-bearing stream.

Types of Projects Funded

- Removal of fish passage barriers, such as replacing culverts

Funding

Funding comes from the Legislature through the sale of general obligation bonds.

Helping Salmon Find their Way Home

Salmon are a vital part of Washington's economy, recreation, culture, and heritage.

Commercial and recreational fishing in Washington is estimated to support 16,000 jobs and \$540 million in personal income.

But for more than a century, people have modified the streams, rivers, and bays that salmon call home as we settled the area and developed our cities.

By the 1990s, our actions had nearly decimated salmon across three-quarters of the state. Today, nearly 20 populations are listed as endangered or threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The decline of salmon has had far reaching affects on Washington's economy, from ending generation-old family fishing businesses, to changing the type of fish we eat at dinner, to affecting other wildlife that rely on salmon for food, such as iconic orca whales.

Opening Valuable Salmon Habitat One Pipe at a Time

One of the most effective ways of restoring declining numbers of fish populations is to remove barriers that prevent them from reaching places where they can feed, grow, and reproduce.

Because correcting fish passage barriers can be costly, the 2003 Legislature created the Family Forest Fish Passage Program—a cost-share program that provides financial and technical resources to families who own small forests.

Three state agencies—the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Recreation and Conservation Office—work together to manage the program. Under the program:

1. The state provides 75-100 percent of the cost of correcting small forest landowners' fish barriers.
2. The landowners in the program fix their barriers when they get state funding.
3. Barriers are repaired on a worst-first basis.



A pipe perched this high above the stream makes it impossible for salmon to migrate upstream.

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INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

How are Projects Selected?

Once an application is received, a field technician evaluates the barrier and determines if it meets the fish passage criteria.

A team from the three partner agencies ranks the projects in each watershed based on other barriers, the habitat opened, the number of salmon and trout species that will benefit, and the cost.

After all projects are prioritized, a steering committee finalizes a list of funded projects. Those projects providing greatest benefit are funded for construction in September each year. Lower priority projects remain in the program to be funded once they become a high priority and money is available.

Grant Recipients 2003-2011

Conservation Districts

Cascadia Conservation District
Clallam Conservation District
Clark Conservation District
Cowlitz Conservation District
Ferry Conservation District
Grays Harbor Conservation District
Jefferson County Conservation District
Kitsap Conservation District
Lewis County Conservation District
Mason Conservation District
Okanogan Conservation District
Pacific Conservation District
Pend Oreille Conservation District
Spokane County Conservation District
Stevens County Conservation District
Thurston Conservation District
Underwood Conservation District
Wahkiakum Conservation District

Tribes

Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation
Kalispel Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Nooksack Indian Tribe
Spokane Tribe of Indians
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Tulalip Tribes
Yakama Nation

Regional Fisheries

Enhancement Groups

Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement
Group
Mid Puget Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement
Association
Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
South Puget Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group
Stilly Snohomish Fisheries
Enhancement Task Force
Tri-State Steelheaders
Wild Fish Conservancy
Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement
Group

State Agencies

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

Landowners

Frame, LLC
Hoh River Trust
Pacific Forest Management
PB Lumber
Ron and Sara Pursley
Stewardship Partners



The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Conservation District used a \$69,000 grant to remove four pipes on Baxter Creek, opening 12 miles of habitat to coho, chum, and steelhead.

Fish Passage Professionals

Chinook Engineering
Cunningham Engineers Inc.
Devine Tarbell & Associates
Fisheries Consultants
Fisheries Engineers, Inc.
Streamworks
Tetra Tech EC Inc.
Waterfall Engineering

Other

Kittitas Conservation Trust
Logicalis Inc
LWC Consulting
Rudeen & Associates, LLC