



COMMUNITY BASED SALMON RESTORATION WORKS

Salmon recovery lead entities are the backbone for locally-based restoration efforts done the Washington Way. Lead entities provide a local, balanced, coordinated, common-sense approach to salmon habitat project implementation. We play a key role in efficiently bringing together tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, citizens, non-profits, business, and technical experts to make local decisions about how best to recover salmon. This work has multiple benefits:*

It Works for the ECONOMY

- These community-based salmon recovery organizations develop on-the-ground projects to improve salmon habitat, bringing family-wage jobs; salmon recovery funding has resulted in 4,400 new or sustained jobs and more than \$640 million in total economic activity (RCO, 2012).
- Lead entities support recreational and commercial fishing by spearheading efforts to recover and sustain salmon populations throughout Washington State. Washington recreation and commercial fisheries supports an estimated 16,374 jobs and \$540 million in personal income (WDFW, 2006).
- Restoration funds are a return on investment—every dollar that is spent returns three dollars of additional matching funds and a great deal of in-kind donated labor and materials.

It Works LOCALLY

- In 1999, Washington State worked with the federal government to allow watersheds to write their own recovery plans for Endangered Species Act listings. This action kept decisions local and not in the hands of the federal government.
- Projects implemented through these local groups protect agricultural lands, provide flood protection, fix roads, bridges and other public infrastructure, and create tourism and recreational opportunities.
- 80% of grant funding is spent in the county where the project is located. For every \$1 million spent on restoration 15–33 new or sustained jobs and \$2.2–2.5 million in total economic activity is generated (RCO, 2012).
- Lead Entities engage hundreds of citizens as volunteers and on local committees to solve the problems in our own communities.

It Works for the ENVIRONMENT

- Businesses locate in Washington State because of the quality of life provided by abundant and beautiful natural resources.
- Maximizing the public benefit of habitat restoration, these locally implemented projects improve water quality and supply and habitat for multiple species, also benefiting human health and wellness.
- Lead entities work locally to restore and protect those resources to the benefit of people who live and work here, as well as the creatures that depend upon the habitat.

**The Salmon Recovery Planning Act (Revised Code of Washington 77.85) created lead entities in 1999. They are administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office. The Washington Salmon Coalition represents Lead Entity organizations throughout Washington State.*