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Family Forest Fish Passage Program

2019 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

A Cost-Share Program for Small Forest Landowners to Improve Fish Passage

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Office

WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Investment in Removal of Fish Barriers Pays Many Dividends

Small woodland owners own 3.2 million acres of Washington's forests — about half of the private forestland in the state. Their income contributes to Washington state's annual $16 billion forestry economy and helps sustain many rural communities. At the same time, these family forests provide cold, clean water to thousands of miles of fish-bearing streams. Crossing those streams, in many cases, are roads.

With the 1999 Forests and Fish rules, new regulations were established that required all forest landowners to remove fish barriers on streams associated with forest road crossings. To small forest landowners, the cost can be substantial and, potentially, influence their decisions about converting their forestlands to other uses. Recognizing these potential impacts, the 2003 Washington State Legislature created the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to help reduce the regulatory and monetary burdens on small family forest landowners and to restore habitat for fish.

Responsible owners of small woodlands and forests have been working with the state to take action. Since 2003, the program has paid dividends: 1,001 miles of fish habitat have been reconnected and 416 fish barriers have been eliminated. It is estimated that for every $100,000 invested in fish passage projects, 1.57 local jobs are created during the construction season. This estimate does not include the additional indirect jobs created, such as manufacturing culverts and bridges. Thanks to a new round of funding from the Legislature, the program is poised to do a lot more.

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

416

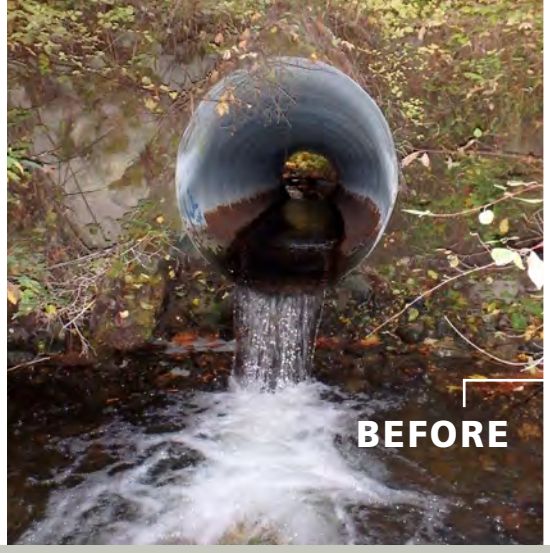
FISH BARRIERS ELIMINATED SINCE 2003

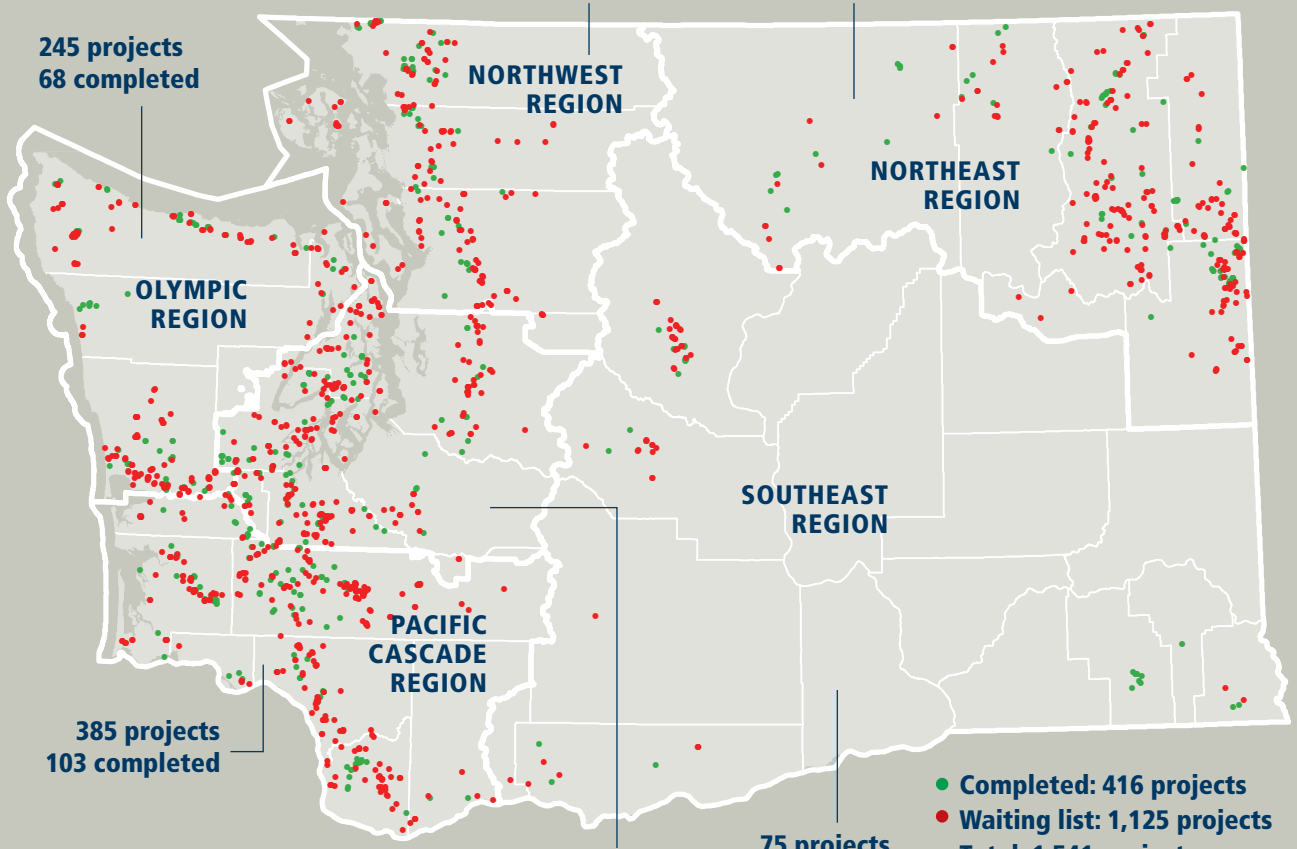
1,001 miles

OF FISH HABITAT RECONNECTED SINCE 2003

"THE FOLKS WHO PUT IN THE BRIDGE WERE EFFICIENT AND FAST AND TRUE TO THEIR WORD. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THEY BUILT A REALLY NICE BRIDGE. I ALSO FEEL IT ADDS TO THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY."

JEAN OLSEN
LANDOWNER





FAMILY FOREST FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS 2003-2019*

- **Completed: 416 projects**
- **Waiting list: 1,125 projects**

Total: 1,541 projects
Habitat Gain (est.): 1,001 miles

Regions on map are DNR regions.

* Projects from June 30, 2003 to October 31, 2019. In February 2014, DNR adjusted the boundaries of the Olympic, South Puget Sound, and Pacific Cascade regions. As a result, the number of projects in each of the three regions differs from those published previously.

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Video Highlights Program Benefits

A continued outreach effort to locate the highest quality projects is a key to the success of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. To assist with outreach, the program created an informational video showcasing the benefits to landowners, fish, and rural communities.

Watch the video online at: dnr.wa.gov/fffpp

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS AVAILABLE."

PATRICK & MARTHA GOULD
LANDOWNERS

ROAD TO RECOVERY

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is implemented by three state agencies: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and the Recreation and Conservation Office. Each agency brings its expertise to oversee the program's operations, outreach, and project selection processes. A steering committee approves annual projects and keeps procedures current. The Washington Farm Forestry Association is an active member of the steering committee as a landowner organization.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program recognizes the critical role that small family forest landowners play in restoring salmon and trout populations. It also recognizes the important economic benefits that small forest landowners provide Washington's economy. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program benefits include:

- Creating jobs and economic opportunities in rural communities.
- Honoring and implementing tribal treaty fishing rights.
- Sustaining our forest industry and encouraging renewable green products.
- Improving water quality by reducing the amount of sediment entering streams and spawning areas.
- Minimizing flooding and the downstream harm to habitat and property.
- Helping implement salmon recovery plans.

Local Groups are the Cornerstone to the Program

Most Family Forest Fish Passage Program projects are completed by local groups or sponsors experienced in fish passage corrections. These sponsors manage project design, construction oversight, permitting, billing, and grant management. A sponsor may be a conservation district, regional fisheries enhancement group, local fish-related nonprofit organization, tribe, or other interested organization.

PROJECT SPONSORS

COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Asotin, Cascadia, Clallam, Chelan, Clark, Cowlitz, East Klickitat, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Underwood, Wahkiakum.

SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUPS

Adopt a Stream
Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
Cascade Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Chelan County Department of Natural Resources
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Kittitas Conservation Trust
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Mid-Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group
North Olympic Salmon Coalition
Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition
Pacific County Anglers
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group
Sound Salmon Solutions
Stilly-Snohomish Task Force
Tri-State Steelheaders
Wild Fish Conservancy
Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group

TRIBES

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

Get More Information

Visit our website:
dnr.wa.gov/fffpp

Program Partners

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
360-902-1404
dnr.wa.gov/sflo

PROJECT EVALUATION & RANKING

Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program
600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
360-902-2352
TTY: 360-902-2207
wdfw.wa.gov

PROGRAM FUNDING

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
360-902-3000
TDD 800-833-6388
rco.wa.gov

LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

Washington Farm Forestry Association
PO Box 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532
Contact: Sam Comstock
360-736-5750
wafarmforestry.com

The above agencies are responsible for implementing the program. The Washington Farm Forestry Association joins the agencies on a steering committee.

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