



Meadow Creek, Stevens County

AFTER



BEFORE

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

2024

IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT

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



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



Investment in Removal of Fish Barriers Pays Many Dividends



Small forest landowners own 2.8 million acres of Washington's 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 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: 1,345 miles of fish habitat have been reconnected and 471 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.

*This estimate is based on guidance from the federal Office of Management and Budget issued on December 18, 2009 and this statement is extracted from *Jobs in the Woods Publication* #10-10-069.

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

471

FISH BARRIERS ELIMINATED SINCE 2003



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1,345 miles

OF FISH HABITAT RECONNECTED SINCE 2003

“THIS IS PERFECTION. BETTER THAN WE COULD EVEN HOPE FOR.”

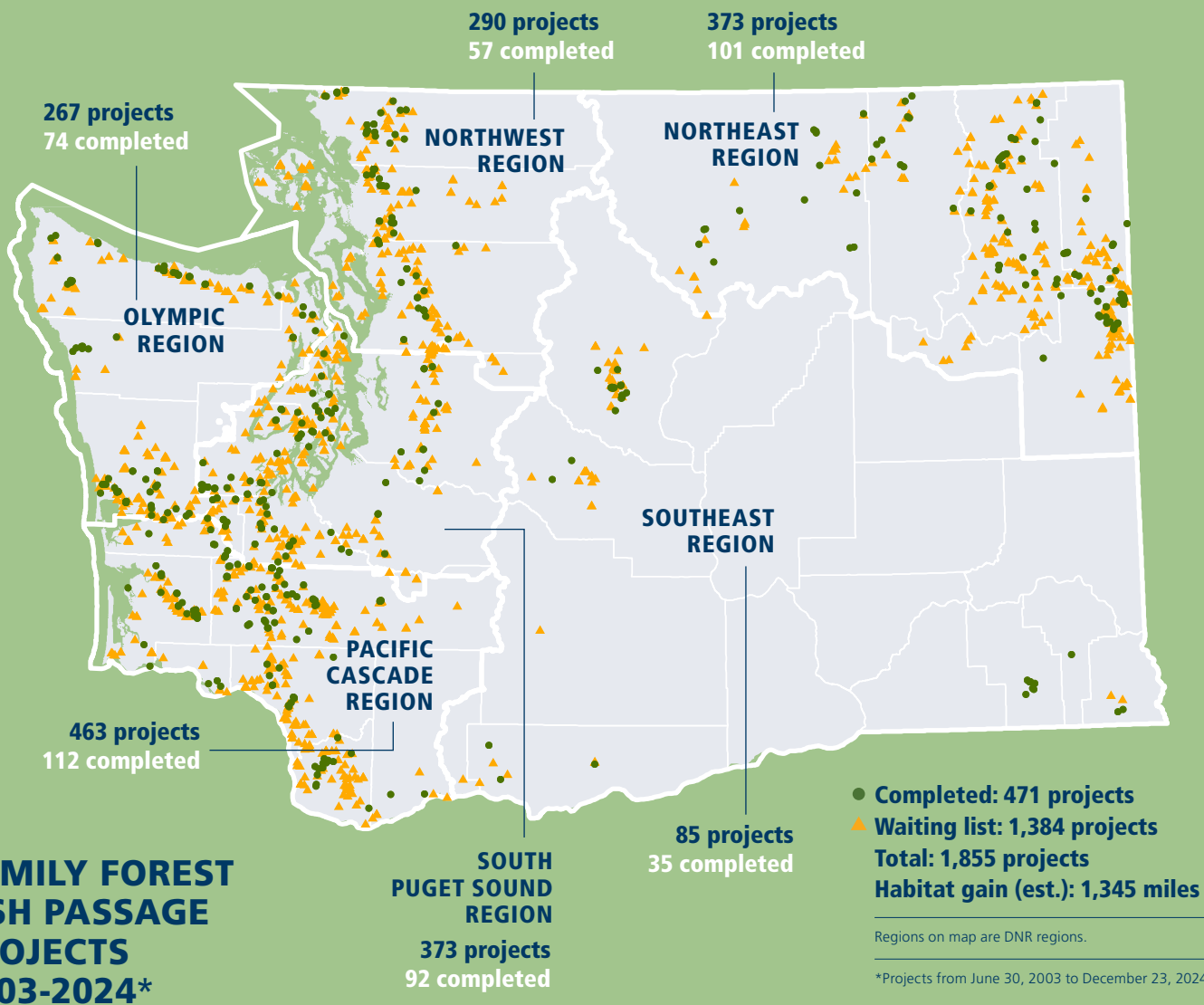
ROY S. LANDOWNER



BEFORE



Buncombe Hallow Creek Project,
Clark County



**FAMILY FOREST
FISH PASSAGE
PROJECTS
2003-2024***

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



dnr.wa.gov/fffpp



WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE PROJECT AND OUTCOME. IT IS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE."

MIKE S.
LANDOWNER



ROAD TO RECOVERY

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is implemented by three state agencies: the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 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:

- Opening miles of habitat for salmon and other aquatic organisms
- 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 oversee project design, construction, permitting, billing, and grant management. A sponsor may be a conservation district, regional fisheries enhancement group, local fish-related non-profit 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 Fisheries
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
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

Program Partners

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office
P.O. Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Chris Dwight: 360-490-0020
dnr.wa.gov/sflo

PROJECT EVALUATION & RANKING
Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program
600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Daniel Barrett: 360-870-2195
TTY: 360-902-2207
wdfw.wa.gov

PROGRAM FUNDING
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Teresa Miskovic: 360-622-1659
TDD: 360-902-1996
rco.wa.gov

LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION
Washington Farm Forestry Association
P.O. Box 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532
fffpp@wafarmforestry.com
wafarmforestry.com

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

GET MORE INFORMATION



dnr.wa.gov/fffpp