



AFTER
An easy passage
for fish



BEFORE
Fairchild Creek, Grays Harbor County

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

2005 Implementation Report

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



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



Interagency Committee for
OUTDOOR RECREATION
SALMON RECOVERY
FUNDING BOARD



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist reviews project details with the project sponsor at Elhi Creek in Pierce County.



Project sponsor South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group reviews construction at McDonald Creek project west of Shelton.

// This program is simple for the sponsor. We don't have to spend time and resources competing for grant funds, instead we can focus on implementing the project as efficiently as possible."

BRIAN BURNS
TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS

// My project sponsor and contractor really went the extra mile to make sure I was satisfied with the end result."

DALE GALYEAN
FOREST LANDOWNER



One of the most effective ways of restoring declining salmon and trout populations is to remove barriers that prevent fish from reaching upstream habitat.

The goal is to have all fish passage barriers on state and private forestlands corrected by 2016. Because correcting fish passage barriers can be costly, especially for the family forest

landowner, the 2003 Legislature established a cost-share program—the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

Three state agencies, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) work together to implement the program. Under the program:

Worst Go First, Project Priorities

Once a year, projects are prioritized and those providing the most benefit to fish are funded. Lower priority projects remain in the program and may be funded once high priority projects are completed and money is available.

Projects are prioritized based on:

- ▶ The number and location of other upstream or downstream barriers.
- ▶ Amount and quality of fish habitat opened by the project.
- ▶ The number of salmon and trout species benefiting from barrier correction.
- ▶ Project cost.

- ▶ The state provides 75-100 percent of the cost of correcting small forest landowners' fish barriers.

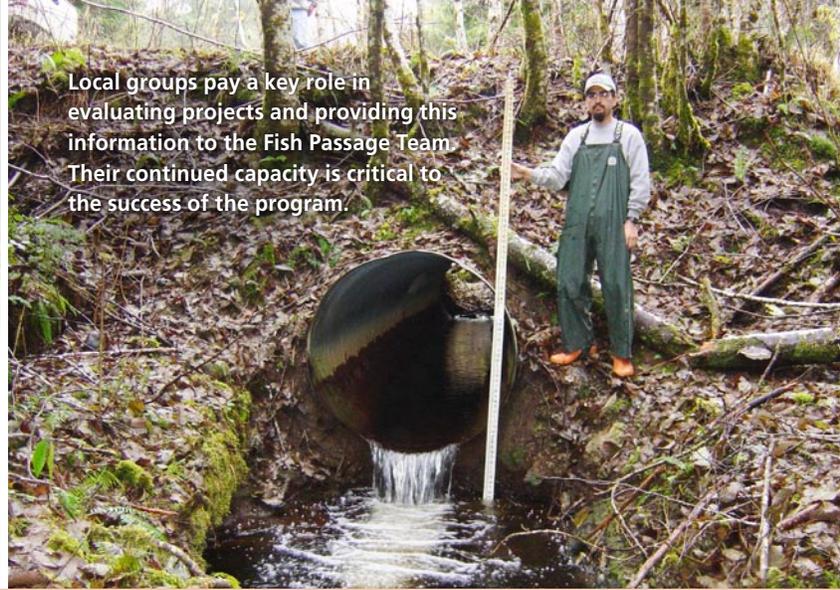
- ▶ Small forest landowners enrolling in the program are required to fix their barriers only if financial assistance is available from the state.

- ▶ Barriers are prioritized and repaired on a worst-first basis in the watershed.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program average project cost is \$41,720 and opens 2.44 miles of habitat.



Local groups pay a key role in evaluating projects and providing this information to the Fish Passage Team. Their continued capacity is critical to the success of the program.



Projects Funded to Date

PROJECT LOCATION	FUNDED SITES	COSTS	STREAM MILES OF HABITAT TO BE OPENED
CLALLAM	9	\$414,991	5.85
CLARK / COWLITZ / SKAMANIA / WAHKIAKUM	11	\$679,575	43.69
COLUMBIA	5	\$140,008	13.72
GRAYS HARBOR / LEWIS	26	\$645,618	80.22
KING / KITSAP / PIERCE	10	\$402,895	24.11
MASON / THURSTON	13	\$673,211	23.42
PACIFIC	3	\$163,073	5.04
SKAGIT / SNOHOMISH / WHATCOM	13	\$501,321	10.96
SPOKANE / STEVENS / PEND OREILLE / FERRY	11	\$593,025	39.27
TOTAL	101	\$4,213,717	246.28 MILES

To date, the program accepted applications for 332 projects. As of February 2006, 101 projects have been funded. These projects will open up 246 miles of habitat.

Accomplishments

The Legislature provided \$2 million to start the program for the 2003-2005 biennium. In July of 2005, the Legislature approved an additional \$4.15 million to the program. To date, 101 projects have been funded totalling \$4.21 million and forty-six projects have been completed.

Projects ranged from road abandonment and culvert removal on small streams to replacing blocking culverts with bridges over larger streams. The enthusiasm of landowners and the can-do attitude of local sponsors contributed to many successfully constructed projects in the first two construction seasons.

Expedited permitting and advance design work also were contributing factors.

- ▶ The average cost of a project was \$41,720.
- ▶ The amount of habitat opened per project averaged 2.44 miles.
- ▶ The total stream miles of habitat to be opened is 246.28 miles.
- ▶ 29 different organizations and landowners have sponsored projects.
- ▶ The program accepted applications for 332 sites since the program was created.
- ▶ Projects opened habitat for fish that are listed (under the Federal Endangered Species Act) as threatened with extinction, as well as for numerous resident fish.

Additional Funding

The Legislature directed DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office to search for additional funds for the program. More than \$600,000 in additional funds for the program have been secured by partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Ecology. DNR is working with local sponsors to apply for additional grants.

Fish Passage Team

The Fish Passage Team, which manages the day-to-day program implementation, is made up of representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Through the team, the agencies work cooperatively on all aspects of the program. DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office is the main point of contact for program information. This office helps landowners, provides outreach, coordinates additional funding sources, and decides which projects receive funding. WDFW evaluates and ranks projects and provides technical assistance on project design. SRFB administers the funding. The focus of the Fish Passage Team is to provide a coordinated approach for the direction of the program.

Project Sponsors

(Number of project sites in parentheses)

REGIONAL FISHERIES

ENHANCEMENT GROUPS

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group (4)
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (11)
Mid-Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (2)
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force (9)
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (3)
Skagit Fishers Enhancement Group (1)
Stilly-Snohomish Task Force (2)
Tri-State Steelheaders (1)
Willapa Bay Fishers Enhancement Group (1)

MISCELLANEOUS SPONSORS

PB Lumber (7)
Colville Confederated Tribes (1)
Fisheries Consultants (1)
Frame, LLC (4)
LWC Consulting (1)
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1)
Nooksack Indian Tribe (2)
Pacific Forest Management (3)
Stewardship Partners (1)

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Lewis County Conservation District (9)
Cowlitz Conservation District (5)
Wahkiakum Conservation District (1)
Pend Oreille Conservation District (4)
Kitsap Conservation District (2)
Ferry Conservation District (1)
Clallam Conservation District (1)
Clark Conservation District (2)
Pacific Conservation District (2)
Spokane County Conservation District (1)
Stevens County Conservation District (3)

// I am pleased to see the link being made between the state and local groups in delivering a program that works for the small landowner. //

SHERRY FOX

FOREST AND FISH POLICY
COORDINATOR WITH THE
WASHINGTON FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION

Local Groups Are Key to the Program

The key to the program's success is the evaluation and field work completed by local groups and landowners, including the 14 nonprofit regional fisheries enhancement groups and many conservation districts. Program success depends on continued staff capacity at the local level.

Correcting a fish barrier is often a complicated and time-consuming process. Project management must be conducted by organizations or landowners familiar with grant management, state and federal permits, and fish barrier correction. The entity managing a funded project is called a sponsor. A sponsor may be:

- ▶ A conservation district, regional fisheries enhancement group, local fish-related non-profit organization, tribe, etc., or
- ▶ The landowner, if he or she wishes to manage all aspects of the project.

Working with a sponsor minimizes a landowner's work. Sponsors manage the project design, permitting, construction oversight, billing, and grant management for the landowner.

How Do I Get More Information?

Visit our Website:
www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp/

Program Partners

PROGRAM OUTREACH

Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Contact: Scott Potter (360) 902-1404
TTY: (360) 902-1125

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Program

600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Contact: (360) 902-2550
TTY: (360) 902-2207

PROGRAM FUNDING

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Natural Resources Building
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Contact: Brian Abbott (360) 902-2638
TTY: (360) 902-1996

LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

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

Washington Farm Forestry Association

PO Box 7663
Olympia, WA 98507
<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>
Contact: Sherry Fox (360) 606-5511