

**AFTER**

An easy passage for fish.  
Photo by Laura Till.



**BEFORE**

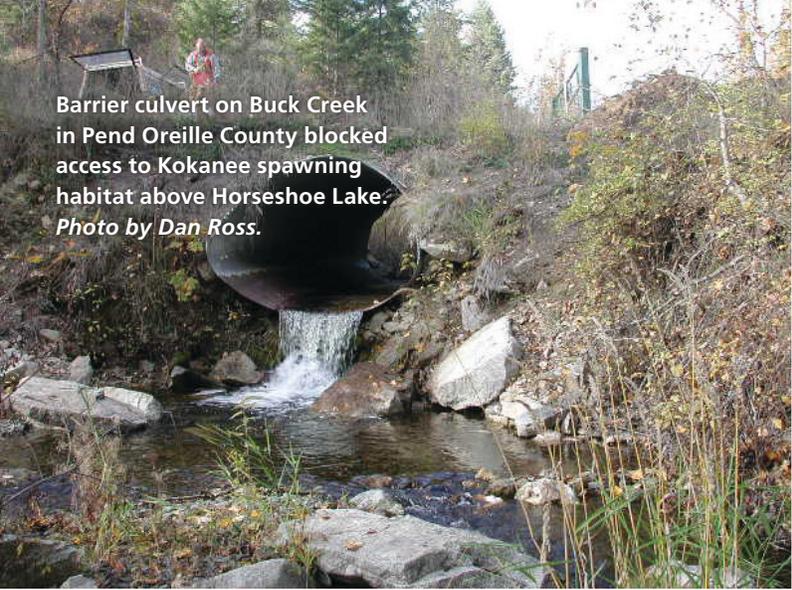
Tributary to Salzer Creek, Lewis County  
Conservation District.

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

2007 Implementation Report

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





Barrier culvert on Buck Creek in Pend Oreille County blocked access to Kokanee spawning habitat above Horseshoe Lake. Photo by Dan Ross.



Barrier culvert was replaced with a bridge. Photo by Laura Till.

**R**emoval of fish passage barriers around Washington can help to restore declining salmon and trout populations. A fish passage barrier is a human-made structure, often associated with a road crossing. As barriers across the state are fixed, access to miles of vital habitat is restored. The goal is to have all fish passage barriers on state and private forestlands corrected by 2016.

**// It was great working with the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force. The whole project was well organized."**

**WILLIAM AND DOROTHY HUBER**  
FOREST LANDOWNERS

### **Priorities: Worst Go First**

Once a year, projects are prioritized and those providing the greatest 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.

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

### **Program Highlights**

The Legislature established a cost-share program – the Family Forest Fish Passage Program – in 2003 to assist family forest landowners in correcting fish barriers associated with forest roads.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program has made great progress each year in correcting fish barriers on forest land.

**2004** – The program was implemented and received requests to replace 100 fish barriers on family forestlands. Twenty-nine barriers were corrected in 2004.

**2005** – The program added 105 fish barriers to the list of projects. Evaluating and prioritizing the increasing number of barriers led to contracting with local groups to expedite this work.

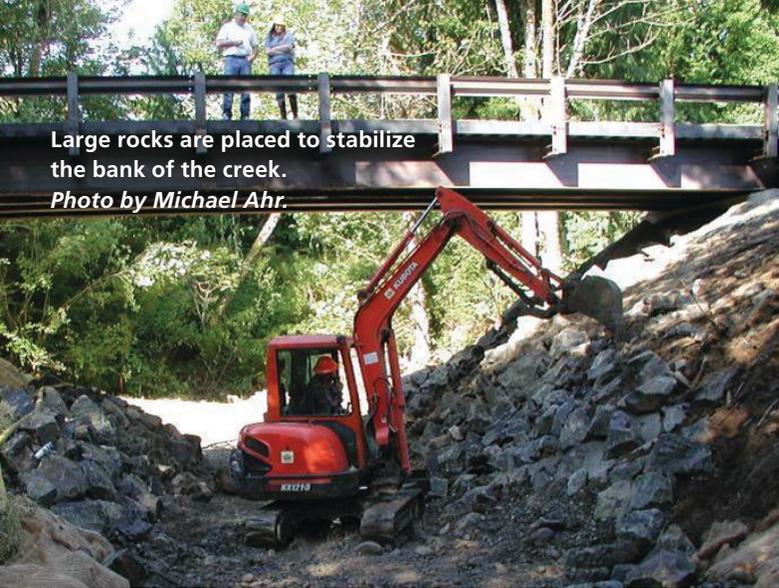
Stream surveys are conducted to verify the habitat quality and quantity in the field before the project is funded. WDFW engineers review project designs to ensure fish passage needs are addressed. Twenty barriers were corrected in 2005.

**2006** – The program received a \$4 million budget for the biennium. Round three added 137 more fish barriers to the program for a total of 342 fish barriers. A numerical ranking system is added the prioritization process. Twenty-six barriers were corrected in 2006.

**2007** – Funding was added for contracted engineers and project managers to assist the local sponsors in designing, estimating and implementing the projects.

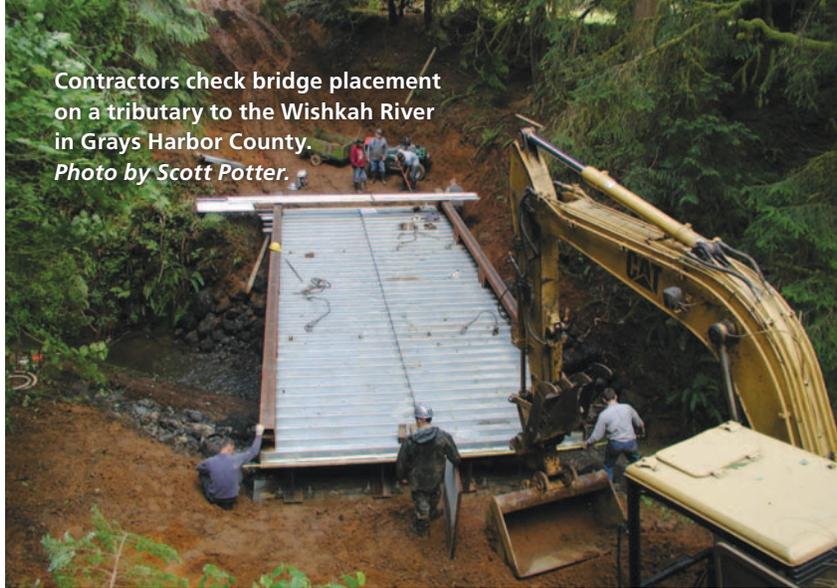
Twenty-five barriers were corrected in 2007. Over half of the projects completed were from the previous three rounds of projects that had not yet been completed.

Due to increases in gas and steel prices, the average cost of a project has tripled since the program began.



Large rocks are placed to stabilize the bank of the creek.

Photo by Michael Ahr.



Contractors check bridge placement on a tributary to the Wishkah River in Grays Harbor County.

Photo by Scott Potter.

## Funded Projects

PROJECT LOCATION/COUNTIES	FUNDED SITES	COSTS	HABITAT OPENED (STREAM MILES)
OLYMPIC PENINSULA / CLALLAM / JEFFERSON	13	\$1,188,075	11.04
LOWER COLUMBIA AND WILLAPA RIVER / WAHKIAKUM / CLARK / COWLITZ / SKAMANIA / KLICKITAT / YAKIMA / PACIFIC	24	\$2,015,967	69.75
CHEHALIS RIVER / GRAYS HARBOR / LEWIS	40	\$1,866,985	97.28
NORTH PUGET SOUND / WHATCOM / SKAGIT / SAN JUAN	14	\$812,045	13.61
MID-PUGET SOUND / KING / KITSAP SNOHOMISH / ISLAND	12	\$629,603	10.27
SOUTH PUGET SOUND / MASON / THURSTON / PIERCE	19	\$1,251,600	40.81
NE WASHINGTON / KITTITAS / CHELAN / FERRY OKANOGAN / STEVENS / PEND OREILLE / SPOKANE	24	\$1,734,950	82.96
SE WASHINGTON / WALLA WALLA / COLUMBIA / GARFIELD / ASOTIN	6	\$234,008	25.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>\$9,733,233</b>	<b>350.90 MILES</b>

## Summary of Program

The Legislature provided \$2 million to the program for the 2003-2005 biennium, \$4.15 million for 2005-2007 biennium and \$6 million for the 2007-2009 biennium. To date, 152 projects have been funded totaling \$9.73 million.

The correction of 100 barriers in five years, and the funding of 52 projects for the summer of 2008, reflects the dedication of the many local sponsors to get projects completed during the short construction season.

The availability of contracted engineers and project managers along with expedited permitting, also contributed to the successful completion of these projects.

- ▶ The average cost of a project is \$64,034.
- ▶ The amount of habitat opened per project averaged 2.31 miles.
- ▶ The total stream miles of habitat to be opened are 350.9 miles.
- ▶ Thirty-eight different organizations and landowners have sponsored projects.
- ▶ Applications for 469 fish barriers have been received 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.

**“All parties involved in this project were excellent to work with. We have a quality bridge that will last forever.”**

**RONALD ROBERTS**  
FOREST LANDOWNER

## Looking ahead to 2008

New applications are coming in and there are still over 300 eligible fish barriers to correct in the database. Thirty-four sites are currently funded for 2008 construction, and 18 projects from previous rounds need to be completed for a total of 52 projects.

## 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 and 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 Recreation & Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board (RCO/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. DNR provides outreach, determines eligibility, coordinates additional funding sources and match, and decides which projects receive funding.

WDFW evaluates and ranks projects and provides technical assistance on project design. RCO/SRFB administers the funding. The Fish Passage Team provides a coordinated approach to implementation of the program.

## Local Groups are Key to the Program

Local groups experienced in fish passage corrections complete most of the projects. 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.

When requested, fish passage professionals will assist the sponsor in designing and managing the project.

// The program gives our conservation district the ability to work with landowners to complete projects that benefit the landowner and our salmon. //

**BOB AMRINE**  
DISTRICT MANAGER  
LEWIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Project Sponsors

### REGIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUPS

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Mid-Sound Salmon Enhancement Group  
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group  
South Puget Sound Salmon

Enhancement Group  
Skagit Fishers Enhancement Group  
Stilly-Snohomish Task Force  
Tri-State Steelheaders  
Wild Fish Conservancy  
Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group

### CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Clallam Conservation District  
Clark Conservation District  
Cowlitz Conservation District  
Ferry Conservation District  
Jefferson Conservation District  
Kitsap Conservation District  
Lewis County Conservation District  
Okanogan Conservation District  
Pacific Conservation District  
Pend Oreille Conservation District  
Spokane County Conservation District  
Stevens County Conservation District  
Underwood Conservation District  
Wahkiakum Conservation District

### TRIBES

The Confederated Tribes  
of the Colville Reservation  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe  
Nooksack Indian Tribe  
Tulalip Tribes  
Yakama Nation

### LANDOWNERS

Frame, LLC  
Hoh River Trust  
Pacific Forest Management  
PB Lumber  
Stewardship Partners

### FISH PASSAGE PROFESSIONALS

Chinook Engineering  
Fisheries Consultants  
Streamworks  
Waterfall Engineering

# How Do I Get More Information?

Visit our Website:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp/](http://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) 902-1428

### PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

#### Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Program

600 Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
Contact: (360) 902-2534  
TTY: (360) 902-2207

### PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANT MANAGEMENT

#### Recreation and Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Natural Resources Building  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917  
Contact: (360) 902-3000  
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 1010  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
<http://www.wafarmforestry.com>  
Contact: Sherry Fox (360) 520-6010

