

# **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program**

## **Biennium Report for July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2003**

### **Region 5 – South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group**

#### **Mission Statement**

SPSSEG is a non-profit organization committed to increasing salmon populations in the South Puget Sound Region through habitat restoration, community education, and volunteer involvement.

#### **RFEG Overview**

SPSSEG covers a large, diverse area with several counties, watersheds and opportunities for salmon restoration. The area includes the Puyallup, Nisqually and Deschutes River systems, their respective tributaries, and 1000's of small streams and creeks draining directly to south Puget Sound. From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, we completed 8 fish passage and inventory projects plus 2 education projects; made progress on 11 other projects; received 11 new grants for on-the-ground restoration and education projects; made significant progress on preparing for our first federal audit; and welcomed two new board members. There are four full time employees and one  $\frac{3}{4}$  time employee.

A 7-member board provides a wealth of technical expertise and institutional memory for this 12 year-old RFEG. The group has well-established partnerships with Pierce, Thurston, Mason, and Kitsap Counties; Pierce, Thurston, and Mason Conservation Districts; and the Squaxin Island, Nisqually, and Puyallup Indian Tribes.

Numerous property owners, businesses, families and other salmon supporters comprise SPSSEG membership. The membership is complemented by non-member donors and volunteers who contribute valuable time and money. A newsletter, annual meeting and quarterly meetings help the membership, staff and board keep in touch.

#### **Project Highlights**

Riparian plantings – Riparian plantings were done as part of several projects listed below.

In-Stream habitat projects:

Lower Mashel Restoration (In progress)

This project is located on the lower 0.7 miles of the Mashel River, which includes vital spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, coho, pink, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Project elements include the modification of 0.5 miles of a washed-out road in the lower Mashel River valley to prevent future fine sediment input and the addition of several pieces of LWD for the purpose of gravel sorting, pool formation, bank erosion reduction, and to increase cover. In order to measure the effectiveness of LWD addition, an intensive monitoring study has been initiated.

Lower Yelm Creek Restoration (In progress)

*(Note: This project also is a Fish Passage Project)*

The objectives of this Nisqually River watershed project are to reconstruct an historic off-channel pond, add LWD for cover, fence out livestock from several hundred meters of creek, plant riparian vegetation, and restore access through a logjam. Restoring passage through the logjam will provide access to about 10 miles of important spawning and rearing habitat for chum, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Project engineering has been completed and construction will take place in summer 2004.

## **Fish Passage Projects**

### **Muck Lake/Lacamas Creek (Completed)**

*(Note: This project is also an In-Stream habitat project.)*

SPSSEG assisted the Nisqually Tribe on this culvert replacement, reed canary grass removal, and revegetation project in WRIA 11. The culvert replacement opened about 5 miles of rearing and spawning habitat.

### **Salazar Culvert Replacement (Completed)**

This project on Woodland Creek was completed in September 2002. Two undersized and collapsing culverts under a private driveway were replaced with a 40 foot bridge. Over 3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat were made more accessible to chinook, chum, coho and other resident fish at all life stages. The City of Lacey recently revegetated the project site with native plants.

### **Schumocher Creek Fish Passage (Completed)**

SPSSEG supported Mason County's replacement of a culvert with a bridge on Schumocher Creek (tributary to Mason Lake). This project restored access to 5 miles of spawning habitat including a 20+ acre rearing wetland. Species include chum, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat. The Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group volunteers continue to monitor the project site and upstream salmon usage.

### **Jorgenson Creek Culvert (Completed)**

A culvert under a private driveway crossing of Jorgenson Creek (Thurston County) was replaced with a squashed aluminum pipe arch and the site was replanted with native vegetation by Lacey Stream Team volunteers. The Thurston Conservation District drafted the monitoring plan and assisted with implementation. This project opened about 0.5 river miles of habitat for salmonids and forged positive relations with neighbors.

### **Anderson Lake Creek Culvert (Completed)**

This project replaced a Mason County culvert on Anderson Lake Creek (WRIA 14). The old structure was replaced with a large 18' wide pre-cast box culvert. Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group volunteers assisted with implementation and continue to conduct post-project monitoring. This project opened about 2 miles of salmonid habitat.

### **Sherwood Creek Railroad Bridge (Completed)**

A U.S. Navy culvert on Sherwood Creek (WRIA 14) was replaced with a 54-foot bridge. The stream channel was returned to its historic location and access was restored to over 17 miles of spawning habitat. The riverbanks were bioengineered and stabilized with coir-wrapped coconut fabric. Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group volunteers assisted with the fish-out and baseline monitoring. The Mason Conservation District has recently completed the site revegetation and are currently monitoring and maintaining the site.

### **Minter Creek Watershed Fish Passage (In progress)**

This project employs a watershed-based approach to the removal of five culvert barriers to salmonid migration in the Minter Creek watershed. Barriers will be replaced with structures that will allow unimpeded fish passage at all life stages. The project sites are scattered throughout the basin on Minter Creek and two tributaries. Accessible habitat will be suitable for chinook, chum, coho, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Project engineering has been completed to 30% and construction will take place in summer 2004.

### **Puget Creek Fishway (In progress)**

SPSSEG is a supporting partner to the Puget Creek Restoration Society and replacement of a private driveway culvert with a fish-friendly structure in WRIA 12 (Chambers-Clover). This project will be completed in 2004.

### **Gosnell Creek Culvert (In progress)**

This project is a partnership with private landowners, Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Works, and SPSSEG. This project will remove two undersized culverts in Mason County and replace them with a 40-foot bridge. Chum, coho, steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout will benefit from this culvert removal and riparian planting. This project will be completed in summer 2003.

#### Perkins Creek Fish Passage (In progress)

Engineering is underway and construction is expected for early summer 2004. The goal of this project is to remove an undersized barrier culvert on a private road and install a properly sized structure. Over one mile of spawning and rearing habitat will be made available to chum, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

#### Perry Creek Tributary Fish Passage (In progress)

This project will utilize a stream based restoration approach and replace two fish passage barriers on a tributary to Perry Creek in Thurston County. One of the barriers has been a total migration barrier for chum, coho, and cutthroat for over 75 years. Approximately 1.5 miles of stream will be re-introduced as historical salmon habitat. Engineering is complete and construction will begin in summer 2004.

### **Assessment, monitoring, and research**

#### WRIA 14 Fish Passage Inventory (Completed)

This inventory provided a comprehensive survey of all in-stream structures (culverts, dams, fishways, etc.) located on private and public lands within WRIA 14. The inventory implemented the WDFW Fish Passage criteria to determine barrier status. Over 300 structures were identified and included in the final report.

#### Puyallup Feasibility Study (Completed)

This study identified 10 restoration projects for funding (WRIAs 10 and 12, Puyallup River and Chambers-Clover Creek). SPSSEG has entered into multiple partnerships to submit proposals to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

#### WRIA 13 Fish Passage Inventory (In progress)

This inventory uses the WDFW protocol to evaluate all culverts, dams, fishways, etc. on anadromous streams in WRIA 13. Over 180 structures have been identified and 10 habitat surveys upstream have been completed. The project will be completed in winter 2004.

#### WRIA 14 Fish Passage Project Development (In progress)

This project uses the WRIA 14 (Mason County) culvert inventory results to prioritize and rank anadromous fish passage barriers. The ranking will be completed by the WRIA 14 Salmon Recovery Habitat Committee and the top 10 projects will be submitted for preliminary engineering designs. Several projects will be submitted for to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding.

#### Nisqually Off-Channel Habitat Survey and Design (In progress)

This project has resulted in the inventory of approximately 50 functional off-channel habitat features within the floodplain of the Nisqually River and the identification of at least 6 sites with restoration potential. Restoration sites will be prioritized based on biological significance, landowner willingness, and cost effectiveness. The top sites will have pre-project engineering and cost estimates completed in preparation for grant applications.

#### Project Monitoring (In progress)

SPSSEG has sponsored an intern to visit past project sites and to begin updating our project database to ensure the projects are still functioning.

### **Generic Projects**

Our Riparian Restoration, Office Operations, Project Management, Project Engineering and Project Construction “projects” allow us to utilize RFEG funds for all of our individual on-the-ground and education projects as well as to maintain and build our organizational infrastructure.

### Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail (Ongoing)

The salmon trail provides public access to one of the South Sound's healthiest native chum runs. Taylor United Shellfish Co. donated a 20-year land lease for a half-mile interpretive trail along Kennedy Creek (WRIA 14). Over 30 volunteer trail guides educated school groups and visitors. About 5,000 visitors visited the trail in 2002.

SPSSEG board, staff, partners, and volunteers are always looking for ways to provide salmon education and outreach. Staff and volunteers provided support to several partners' events including Mason Conservation District's Kids with Conservation Knowledge, Thurston Conservation District's South Sound Green student Congress, and the Puyallup School District's Clark Creek Education Day. Over 1,200 students were involved in watershed education through these events. We also used funds to update our website, create and distribute newsletters, and support our annual and general membership meetings.

### Project Expenditures: July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Project Name	RFEG Funds	Vol Hours	Vol Dollars	Other Funds	Total Spent
Lower Mashel Restoration	\$1,040	120	\$2,747	\$1,005	\$4,792
Lower Yelm Creek Restoration	\$2,106	78	\$1,855	\$3,944	\$7,905
Salazar Culvert Replacement	\$25,506	144	\$3,456	\$99,036	\$127,998
Schumacher Creek Fish Passage	\$1,560	0	\$0	\$0	\$1,560
Anderson Lake Creek Culvert	\$33,106	0	\$0	\$52,791	\$85,897
Sherwood Creek Railroad Bridge	\$2,106	120	\$1,380	\$290,957	\$294,443
Minter Creek Fish Passage	\$1,013	0	\$0	\$1,655	\$2,668
Gosnell Creek Fish Passage	\$76	0	\$0	\$3,067	\$3,143
Perkins Creek Fish Passage	\$0	6	\$330	\$152	\$482
Perry Creek Fish Passage	\$13	100	\$1,250	\$3,927	\$5,190
WRIA 14 Fish Passage Inventory	\$6,811	138	\$4,165	\$47,350	\$58,326
Puyallup Feasibility	\$3,031	0	\$0	\$30,070	\$33,101
WRIA 13 Fish Passage Inventory	\$4,268	229	\$4,354	\$4,421	\$13,043
WRIA 14 Project Development	\$1,825	50	\$1,750	\$3,489	\$7,064
Nisqually Off-Channel Project	\$8,847	124	\$2,813	\$4,473	\$16,133
Project Monitoring	\$0	40	\$460	\$0	\$460
Generic Projects	RFEG Funds	Vol Hours	Vol Dollars	Other Funds	Total Spent
Office Operations	\$15,910	194	\$5,820	\$0	\$21,730
Project Management	\$16,052	0	\$0	\$0	\$16,052
Project Engineering	\$9,090	10	\$800	\$0	\$9,890
Education and Outreach	\$22,316	68	\$782	\$0	\$23,098
Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail	\$11,526	328	\$3,772	\$0	\$15,298
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$166,202</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>\$35,734</b>	<b>\$546,337</b>	<b>\$748,273</b>

### SPSSEG Board

Terry Wright, President, NWIFC

Blake Smith, Vice President, Puyallup Indian Tribe

Richard Johnson, Treasurer/Sec., White River Hatchery

Jeanette Dorner, Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Sally Hicks, Private Consultant  
Jen Thurman-Williams, Mason Conservation District  
Marc Wicke, Tacoma Power

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This biennium report to the legislature and other parties meets the state requirements of RCW 75.50.050 and 75.50.120. The report also publicizes the RFEG program , giving information about its extensive impact in Washington State.

All information comes directly from the RFEGs and from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's contract summaries. Volunteer dollars are calculated at the rate of \$12.50 per hour.