



Mox Chehalis Project, Grays Harbor County

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

# 2023

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**



Parmenter Project, Okanogan County. **AFTER**



**BEFORE**

# 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: 1,314 miles of fish habitat have been reconnected and 460 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 2023

# 460

## FISH BARRIERS ELIMINATED SINCE 2003



For every \$100,000 invested in fish passage projects, about 1.57 local jobs\* are created during construction season.

# 1,314 miles

## OF FISH HABITAT RECONNECTED SINCE 2003

“IT IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM WITH GREAT PEOPLE, CLEAR EXPECTATIONS, AND AMAZING RESULTS. LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY. GRATEFUL BEYOND WORDS.”

KELL H.  
LANDOWNER

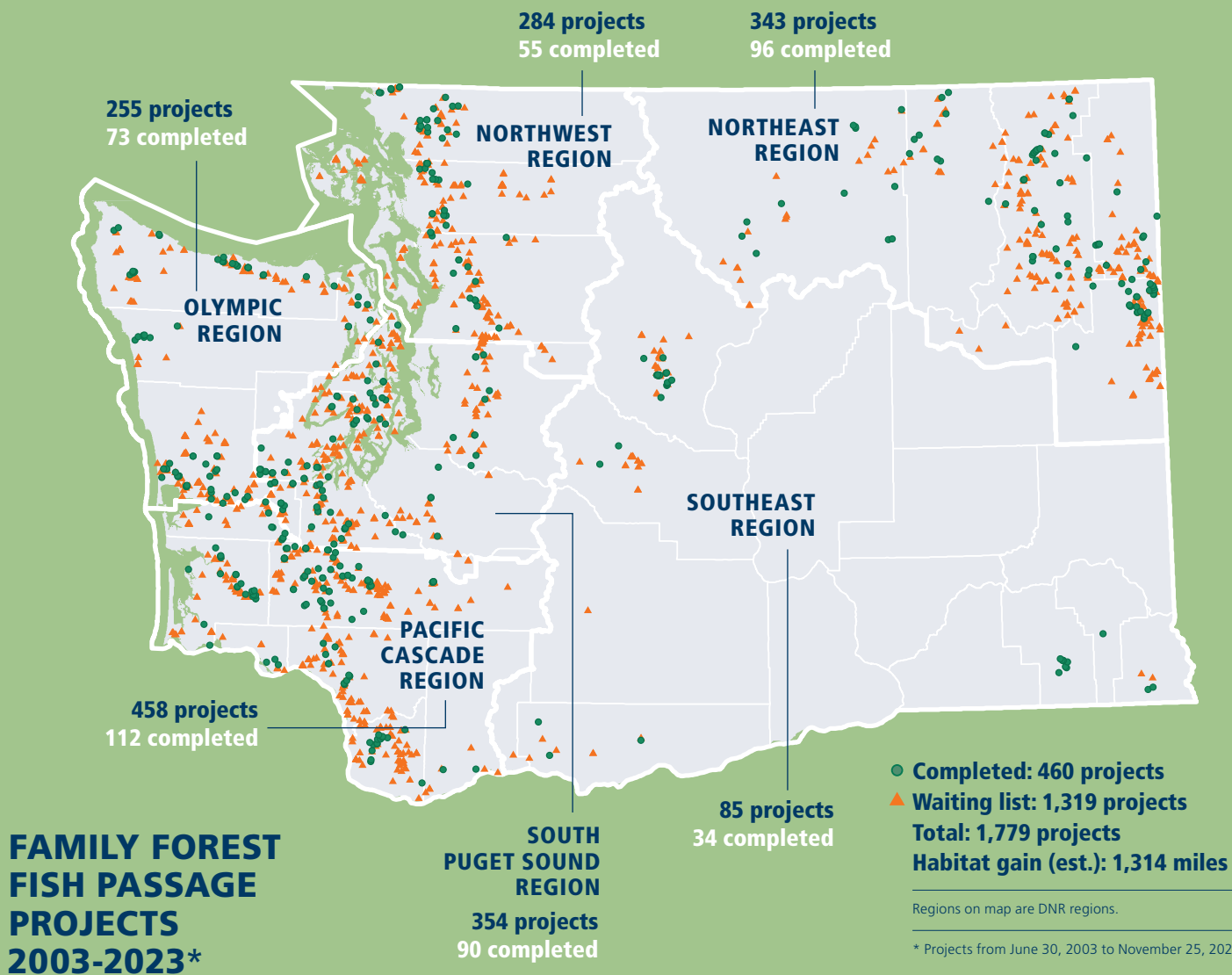


**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Blanchard Creek Project,  
Spokane County.



### 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/ffpp](http://dnr.wa.gov/ffpp)



[dnr.wa.gov/ffpp](http://dnr.wa.gov/ffpp)



**THE PROJECT RESULTED IN AMAZING HABITAT ALL YEAR LONG, THE PLANTS ARE TAKING HOLD, AND THE BRIDGE REALLY ALLEVIATED THE BOTTLENECK THAT WAS THE CULVERTED DRIVEWAY."**

**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:

- 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 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 Fisheries  
 Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force  
 Cascade Fisheries  
 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](http://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](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

**PROGRAM FUNDING**  
**Recreation and Conservation Office**  
 P.O. Box 40917  
 Olympia, WA 98504-0917  
 Sandy Dotts: 360-628-9487  
 TDD: 360-902-1996  
[rco.wa.gov](http://rco.wa.gov)

**LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION**  
**Washington Farm Forestry Association**  
 P.O. Box 1010  
 Chehalis, WA 98532  
[fffpp@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:fffpp@wafarmforestry.com)  
[wafarmforestry.com](http://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](http://dnr.wa.gov/fffpp)