



Leonard Project, Mason County **AFTER**



**BEFORE**

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

# 2019

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**





**AFTER**  
Handschke Project,  
Chelan County



**BEFORE**

# Investment in Removal of Fish Barriers Pays Many Dividends



Small woodland owners own 3.2 million acres of Washington's

forests — about half of the private 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 family 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: 1,001 miles of fish habitat have been reconnected and 416 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.

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

# 416

**FISH BARRIERS  
ELIMINATED SINCE  
2003**

# 1,001 miles

**OF FISH HABITAT  
RECONNECTED  
SINCE 2003**

**“THE FOLKS WHO PUT IN THE BRIDGE WERE EFFICIENT AND FAST AND TRUE TO THEIR WORD. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THEY BUILT A REALLY NICE BRIDGE. I ALSO FEEL IT ADDS TO THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY.”**

**JEAN OLSEN**  
LANDOWNER



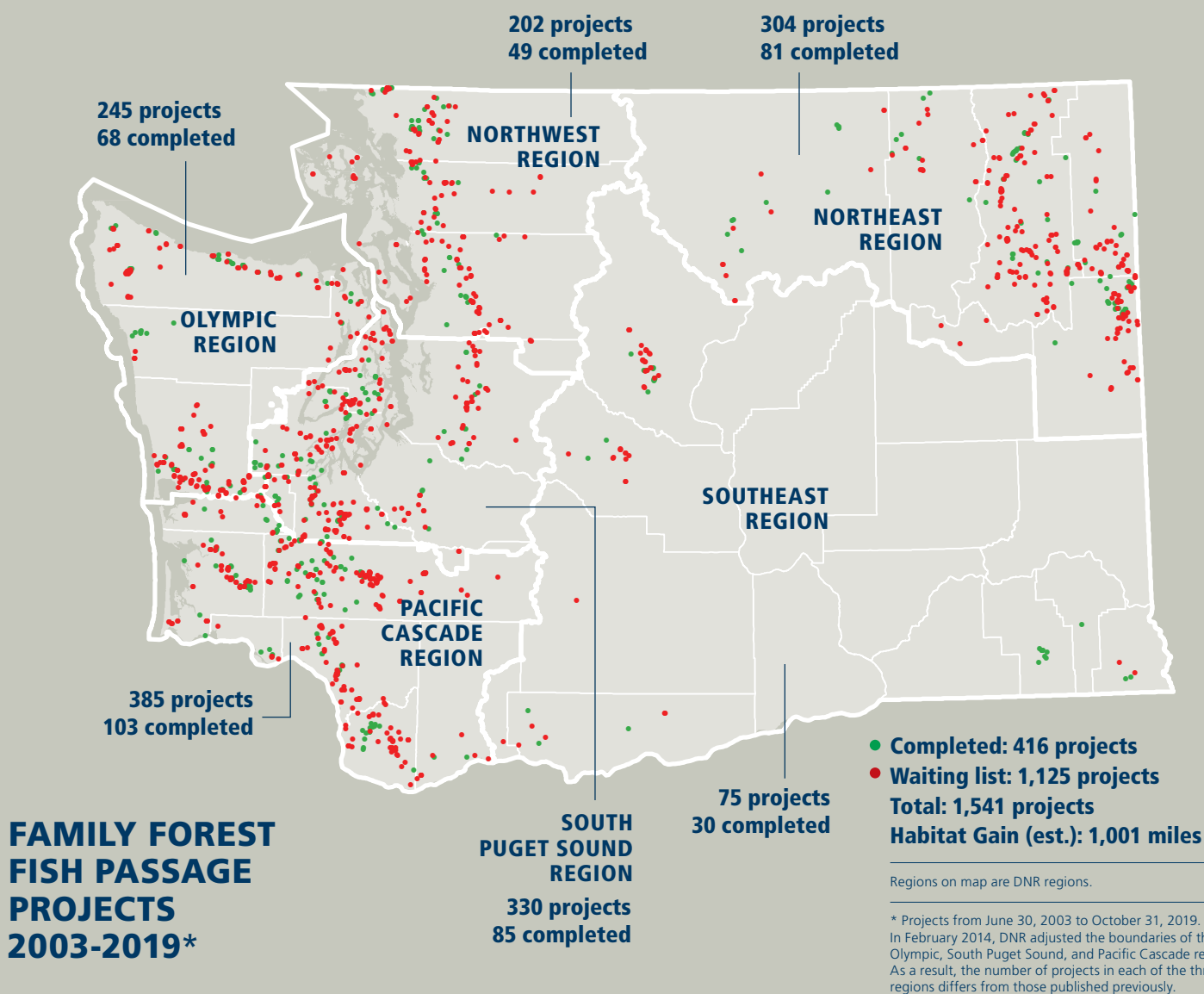


**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Wisemantle Project,  
Stevens County



## FAMILY FOREST FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS 2003-2019\*



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

## 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)**

“

I HAD NO  
IDEA THAT THIS  
PROGRAM WAS  
AVAILABLE.”

PATRICK & MARTHA GOULD  
LANDOWNERS

## ROAD TO RECOVERY

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is implemented by three state agencies: Department of Fish and Wildlife, 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 manage project design, construction oversight, 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 Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force  
Cascade Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
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

## Get More Information

Visit our website:  
[dnr.wa.gov/fffpp](http://dnr.wa.gov/fffpp)

## Program Partners

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Department of Natural  
Resources Small Forest  
Landowner Office

PO Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012  
360-902-1404  
[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  
360-902-2352  
TTY: 360-902-2207  
[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

### PROGRAM FUNDING Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917  
360-902-3000  
TDD 800-833-6388  
[rco.wa.gov](http://rco.wa.gov)

### LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

Washington Farm  
Forestry Association

PO Box 1010  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
Contact: Sam Comstock  
360-736-5750  
[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.