

**Tribal Wildlife Grants Program Application FY 2005
Nooksack Indian Tribe Natural Resources Department**

I. Program Summary

The Nooksack Natural Resources Department proposes to implement habitat restoration activities in the Nooksack River basin in support of salmon recovery. The project targets high priority *Threatened* fish stocks including Nooksack native early chinook and bull trout.

Project Activity 1. South Fork Nooksack Floodplain Restoration – Lower Acme Reach

The potential for salmon recovery in the Nooksack basin is limited by poor habitat quality, quantity and diversity. In the South Fork Nooksack River, historically abundant channel spanning logjams were removed from the river, and dikes and riprap were installed to harden banks and limit channel migration. The result is a simplified and confined river channel lacking in the habitat elements critical to salmon: cool, deep pools for resting, holding, and rearing, stable spawning beds, and off-channel habitat to escape high energy flood flows. Recognizing these limitations, local salmon Co-managers prioritized the lower South Fork (RM 0-13) for habitat improvement and restoration. A restoration project involving engineered logjams is currently underway upriver from the proposed project site, supported in part by the 2003 TWG program. The proposed project occurs just downriver, in a 1.5-mile segment of historically significant habitat just below the town of Acme, known as the Lower Acme Reach. Restoration activities in this reach include re-introducing logjams and re-establishing forest vegetation. Planning for this project is being conducted cooperatively with Lummi Nation, Whatcom County, Whatcom Land Trust and private landowners adjacent to the river. Building stable logjams in the river while restoring floodplain forests will provide both immediate and long-term benefits to listed, Tribally significant species.