



US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION DIVISION

Watershed Protection and Restoration Branch

Background

The Environmental Assessment and Restoration Division includes several habitat protection and restoration programs. The programs differ by focusing in distinct geographic areas or funding specific types of projects.



Restoring riparian plants, Tumwater Falls (USFWS, Rich Carlson)

Who We Are

We are a dedicated team of experienced fish and wildlife biologists and a geomorphologist committed to protecting and restoring Western Washington's watersheds, native prairies and marine ecosystems.

Who We Serve

- The Public
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Tribes
- Conservation districts
- Education groups
- State, Federal and local agencies

What We Do

- We develop strong partnerships with a wide variety of community groups, organizations and agencies using a voluntary, non-regulatory approach.
- We provide technical assistance, project development, implementation and monitoring. We also assist partners with preparation of national grant applications and regulatory compliance.
- We support our partners through the provision of funding for cost-share projects that restore and protect Washington's natural resources.
- We support the recovery of ESA-listed species by promoting voluntary conservation activities.
- We address nuisance invasive species issues that threaten Washington's aquatic ecosystems, native grasslands and riparian and our economy.
- We help educate the public about the benefits of natural resource stewardship and how they can make a difference.



Planting Golden Paintbrush (USFWS, Judy Lantor)

Division Programs

Puget Sound Coastal Program

The Puget Sound Coastal Program (PSCP) was established to protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources of Washington's coastal ecosystems. The three areas of focus in Washington State are: the North Puget Sound and Eastern Straits of Juan de Fuca; South Puget Sound and Hood Canal; and Willapa Bay.

We collaborate with partners on both large and small scale restoration projects with the primary goal of planning, implementing and monitoring habitat restoration and protection projects that benefit coastal resources.

In 2005/2006 we protected or restored 4 miles of marine shoreline, 846 acres of coastal wetlands, 83 acres of coastal dune habitat, and 93 acres of coastally-associated habitat. We also restored fish passage to 145 acres of wetland and 24 miles of stream habitat and enhanced 6 miles of fish habitat.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

This nationwide program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to voluntarily restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitats on their lands. The program focuses on restoring habitat for anadromous fish, migratory birds and declining plant and animal species.

We also focus on native prairies, grasslands, and oak savannas that support many at-risk plants, insect and bird species. We provide technical assistance to U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies in the field implementing key conservation programs, including the Wetlands Reserve Program.

In 2005/2006, in partnership with local communities and various organizations and agencies, we restored over 4 miles of streams, 987 acres of uplands, and 207 acres of wetlands, and reopened 4 miles of upstream habitat. The Partners program also provided technical assistance to restore 175 acres of wetland and over 400 acres of upland habitat.

Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program

The Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program (CFRP) works with partners to restore fish habitat and revitalize fish runs in the Chehalis Basin. The Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation each receive funding for cooperative habitat restoration projects through this program

The CFRP has implemented 178 habitat restoration, watershed assessment and public education projects since 1993.

Projects include re-opening stream habitat through fish passage improvements, removing invasive species, planting trees, conducting habitat assessments, and integrating environmental education into Chehalis Basin school curriculums.



Grinnel Creek Culvert removal to restore fish passage (South Sound Salmon Enhancement)

Aquatic Nuisance Species

We have represented the USFWS on invasive species issues in the Pacific Northwest since 1995. We participate in programs that help fund the state's aquatic nuisance species management plan, work to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels, and act as a clearing house for ANS information, among other efforts.

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