

NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION

2006 Annual Report FY05: July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

Mission Statement

North Olympic Salmon Coalition mission is to protect and preserve the stocks of salmonids in the stream of the North Olympic Peninsula through community based salmon recovery. We provide funding, guidance, technical assistance and ongoing support for salmon habitat restoration and enhancement on public and private land.

RFEG Overview

As a non-profit community-based salmon recovery organization, North Olympic Salmon Coalition provides funding, guidance, technical assistance and ongoing support for salmon habitat restoration and enhancement. Our region includes the watersheds along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, extending from the Hood Canal Bridge west to Neah Bay. This year we formalized our working relationship with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Jefferson and Clallam County Conservation Districts (JCCD and CCD), Point No Point Treaty Tribes, a variety of agencies, schools, community organizations, volunteers and landowners through our cooperative work on key areas of wildlife habitat areas in Morse, Snow-Salmon and Chimacum Creeks. NOSC and our partners have been active in establishing these conservation areas and are providing assessment funds, staff time and community outreach on WDFW owned parcels. NOSC and WDFW initiated a plan to create an interpretive center at Morse Creek in Port Angeles. Funding from ALEA Cooperative grants, WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), augmented the RFEG funds. Technical support from WDFW, US Navy, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Jamestown and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes and JCCD are critical components to our project success.

We participate in Salmon Recovery Funding Board processes in two lead entities. In Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity we participate in technical review, citizen project ranking and strategy development. In 2007 North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity invited NOSC to join the Technical Review Group. NOSC's priority watersheds are Morse Creek in WRIA 18 and the variety of rural watersheds in WRIA 19. The Salmon-Snow watershed in Discovery Bay is our action priority in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity. From the Eaglemount headwaters to Port Townsend Bay, the Chimacum watershed remains a high community priority for NOSC in the HCCC lead Entity Area. The Regional Recovery Plan for Hood Canal and Straits of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum is lead by HCCC who looks to NOSC and the rest of the "Chumsortium" as the local outreach partners to develop community support for recovery of ESA listed summer chum in these watersheds.

Fish Enhancement

During the past year, NOSC volunteers continued their efforts to restore ESA listed summer chum in three watersheds: Salmon, Chimacum and Jimmycomelately Creeks. The program was adopted by NOAA as part of the Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, 2007. The results continue to show success from the broodstock supplementation program. Salmon Creek and Chimacum Creek are no longer dependent on broodstock programs. NOSC volunteers will continue to monitor the population with WDFW assistance to ensure broodstocking does not need to occur in the future. WDFW otolith mark analysis is funded by the ALEA cooperative grant.

In-stream habitat projects

A key to maintaining self-sustaining summer chum and native coho and steelhead runs is to identify and improve habitat problems that have lead to poor natural spawning and rearing. Over the past 16 years NOSC and our partners have been successful in identifying and completing habitat improvements to increase natural spawning success as well as watershed and estuary rearing.

Lee Miller's conservation easement on the upper Mainstem of Chimacum Creek at Eaglemount is a beautiful stretch of well-shaded native habitat. However a significant lack of instream large woody debris reduced the quality of spawning habitat for coho. A grip-hoist project was completed with volunteers help. LWD was relocated from the surrounding forest floor to instream riffles and pools, improving habitat for spawning and juvenile rearing.

Shold's on Chimacum Creek. NOSC planted trees as a riparian buffer improvement effort following in-stream habitat improvement project partnering with Jefferson County Conservation District. Planting was conducted by 80 6th grade students with our Americorps intern as a service learning project, additional planting was done by volunteers to complete the planting of close to 400 trees and shrubs, after placement of 20 instream log and rootwad structures.

Riparian plantings

Volunteers from Jefferson Land Trust, 4-H, WSU, Water/BeachWatchers, Greywolf Ranch, Port Angeles Rotary, Americorps, Trout Unlimited, and local schools are valuable partners on these projects. Many volunteer hours were logged to Chimacum Creek and its tributaries including East Fork, Putaansuu's Ck, Naylor's Ck, as well as Salmon and Snow Creeks in Discovery Bay, and in urban Port Angeles at Morse Creek and Valley Ck for habitat revegetation. NOSC continues to also maintain three plant nurseries one on donated farmland, another at Chimacum School both located in Jefferson County and a third in Port Angeles, which was planted in 2006 with NFWF funds. Combined, these nurseries hold over 6,000 native trees and shrubs. NOSC is maintaining over 17 acres of riparian plantings at this time to reduce weed competition and encourage growth of the young trees, has planted 1,108 trees/shrubs, and manually cleared 2 miles of invasive weeds in stream habitat during the '06-'07 fiscal year.

Pataansuu Creek Rearing Pond This year NOSC put in additional riparian plants with volunteers to improve shade at the pond on a tributary to Chimacum Creek. High water temperatures in the summer months are common, limiting the amount of available dissolved oxygen. The landowner has taken responsibility to maintain the 400 plants.

Salmon/Snow Creeks The freshwater riparian buffer area have undergone extensive restoration efforts since 2003. NOSC conducted supplemental plantings of the floodplain riparian zone augmenting CREP plantings close to the streambank.

Valley Creek Valley Ck continues to be a valuable service-learning site for conducting education and outreach programs. Students and community volunteers continue to help maintain native vegetation and clear invasive species in effort to improve riparian habitat in a restoration project reach. NOSC volunteers are monitoring for the presence of salmonid species in this reach. Anadromous salmonid use is in question due to a 700 ft culvert at the mouth of the creek, blocking fish access so it continues to be a popular deposit area for Salmon in the Classroom programs in Port Angeles schools. Additional restoration is pending bridge reconstruction and property acquisition by the City of Port Angeles.

Morse Creek This site is another valuable service-learning site with easy public access and high visibility as US Hwy 101 and the Olympic Discovery Trail cross it, where a community based nature center will be located in an existing log cabin. NOSC, along with local volunteers have maintained a native plant nursery, which was planted in the '05 – '06 fiscal year. The area had been highly impacted due to off-highway vehicles. The nursery will serve as an expanded riparian buffer between Hwy 101 and Morse Cree as trees are thinned for planting elsewhere on the WDFW property. The project continues to be supported by NFWF Community Salmon Fund

Chimacum Creek (mainstem and E. Fork) Planting and maintenance of project sites continued on Chimacum Creek and tributaries, covering approximately 15 acres of riparian habitat. Problematic weed species, such as reed canary grass, nightshade, poison hemlock, and watercress, are maintained through mowing and hand clearing. Planting, tree watering, and weed control were completed at these sites with help from Americorps, NCCC, WCC, Greywolf Ranch members, and community volunteers. Additionally, NOSC received a NFWF

Community Salmon Fund grant to clear stream habitat of invasive weeds, such as European bittersweet/nightshade, watercress, and reed canary grass in order to help improve water quality and fish passage issues.

Clallam Bay NOSC provided 260 trees for Lower Elwha Tribal and Pysht River riparian plantings.

Monitoring

Macroinvertebrate study NOSC completed the 5th year of the baseline macroinvertebrate monitoring program established in 2002 on Salmon and Chimacum Creeks to gauge changes in biological integrity pre and post summer chum recovery and habitat restoration. Analysis of stream insect populations at each restoration site is compared to control sites on each stream. This year NOSC added 3 new monitoring sites in areas of dense forest canopy to increase control for the B-IBI scores. This remains the only comprehensive study of instream benthic macroinvertebrates in East Jefferson County streams. The project has been dependent on volunteers from the community, Americorps and Chimacum School 6th grade science classes for its accomplishments. NOSC began data analysis to correlate B-IBI scores with Jefferson County Conservation District water quality monitoring data.

Water Quality Monitoring For the 6th year, NOSC funded an Americorps intern to work with JCCD's water quality monitoring program in Chimacum, Salmon, Snow and other watersheds. This work adds to the continuous 18-year data set documenting watershed conditions throughout East Jefferson County.

Vegetation Monitoring Conducted on Chimacum Creek and Valley Creek. This year NOSC volunteers focused on controlling the spread of invasive species, as well as survival inventory of plantings at Valley Ck. In Chimacum watershed, the areas monitored included over 100 acres of contiguous protected nearshore, estuary. European bittersweet/nightshade, watercress, and Himalayan blackberry were found to be a problem in Chimacum. Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, English Ivy, and herb Robert are problems on Valley Ck. Volunteer efforts to remove such species are ongoing.

Education and Outreach

NOSC continued participation in a variety of annual festivals and events in the region including the North Olympic Land Trust Streamfest, Hadlock Days, Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Expo, Port Townsend's Earthday Everyday Festival and Joyce Daze. NOSC continued involvement with 4-H after school programs and summer camps in Jefferson County, YMCA summer programs in Jefferson and Clallam Counties, and Chimacum and Port Townsend school science classes, Billings Middle School from Seattle, as well as continuing to work with private schools and home-school groups. NOSC also provided service learning and training for Americorps NCCC who worked with NOSC on our restoration, monitoring, and education projects. As in previous years, NOSC provided education and training for volunteers aiding in our annual B-IBI macroinvertebrate stream surveys, summer chum spawning surveys and winter coho spawning surveys. We continued our role coordinating the travels of FIN, the Giant Salmon that promotes watershed education, and distribution of Tracking the Dragon, a education watershed based learning book.

Through our education programs, NOSC has provided 1,942 contact hours through presentations, interactive projects and activities to 720 individual students in 14 schools and youth programs.

NOSC continues to build on our long-term partnership with WDFW, Peninsula College and other local non-profit natural resource organizations to develop an education and public interpretive site at the WDFW Morse Creek Wildlife Area. associated with an existing log building at a key site on Hwy 101 in Port Angeles. Recent focus is on Riparian restoration and stormwater improvements funded by NFWF.

Community Outreach

NOSC representatives made presentations to the Jefferson County Marine Resource Committee and to various nearshore community organizations such as Puget Sound Anglers, Discovery Baywatchers, WSU Cooperative Extension Water/Beach Watchers classes in two counties, participated in Watershed planning in WRIA 17, and participated in two Shoreline Landowner Workshops co-sponsored by WSU Jefferson Co.

Cooperative Extension/WBW and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Marine Riparian Initiative program. The program is designed to reach private landowners to encourage and promote retaining and restoring native vegetation along shorelines and bluffs for their ecological value, as well as erosion protection.

Assessment and Research

Chimacum Estuary/Irondale Beach Baseline NOSC staff and volunteers continued post project data acquisition for the WDFW Baseline Assessment as follow-up to pre-project baseline assessment surveys. The restoration project was completed by WDFW in March 2006. The Puget Sound Beach Seine Protocol was used to determine seasonal fish use, and the upland and intertidal beach profiles were measured. Natural re-vegetation and invasive weeds are also being monitored with NOSC volunteers. The site offers excellent service learning opportunities.

Fish monitoring NOSC volunteers assisted Lower Elwha K'lallam Tribal staff in the installation of smolt traps on Deep Creek and West Twin Rivers. Spawning surveys for summer chum and coho took place with volunteers in the Chimacum watershed in cooperation with WDFW and the Point No Point Treaty Council. NOSC volunteers continued to provide extensive volunteer labor support for the WDFW Snow Creek Coho Recovery Program, a research based broodstock and RSI effort using multiple rearing and release strategies in the Discovery Bay watershed. NOSC volunteers attended adult traps at Jimmycomelately and Salmon Creeks and walked Chimacum Creek counting summer chum and collecting tissue samples for DNA and identification analysis.

Morse Creek Feasibility Study Partnering with Harbor Consulting Engineers, NOSC is using a SRFB grant to create a hydraulic model of the lower reach in order to create a restoration design plan. The final report was issued in March 2007 generating conceptual restoration designs to improve fish habitat on WDFW wildlife area while addressing concerns of streamside landowners. Extensive community outreach will be the next activity.

Snow Salmon Watershed Restoration . Coordinating through the Snow- Salmon Technical Advisory Group, NOSC continued to restoration design while exploring the ramifications of extensive deposits of woodwaste on the estuarine ecosystem. Extensive core drilling and tidal channel sampling were used to define the extent of previously unrecognized habitat impacts of woodwaste in partnership with University of Puget Sound and Kennedy/Jenks Consulting. WDFW, DNR and Jefferson County collaborated with NOSC to develop a funding plan for removal of creosote pilings and marine debris from a collapsed structure in Olympia oyster beds.

Table of project expenditures

REGION 7 - NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION**PROJECT EXPENDITURES: JULY 1, 2006 - JUNE 30, 2007**

	RFEF Funds	Vol Hrs	Vol Dollars	Other Funds	Total Spent
Project Director	\$ 39,214.55	147.00	\$ 2,205.00		\$ 41,419.55
Project Coordinator	\$ 52,976.00		\$ -		\$ 52,976.00
Macroinvertebrate Study		71.00	\$ 1,065.00		\$ 1,065.00
Chimacum Spawning Surveys		59.50	\$ 892.50		\$ 892.50
Snow Creek Coho Recovery		236.00	\$ 3,540.00		\$ 3,540.00
Smolt Trap: Deep Creek,		13.00	\$ 195.00		\$ 195.00
HCCC Marine Riparian	\$ 107.00	10.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 257.00
East Fork Chimacum				\$ 2,486.00	\$ 2,486.00
Olympic Discovery Nature Center	\$ 266.00	63.50	\$ 952.50		\$ 1,218.50
Habitat Restoration	\$ 25,721.00	495.50	\$ 7,432.50		\$ 33,153.50
Morse Creek Riparian Restoration	\$ 1,654.00	119.50	\$ 1,792.50		\$ 3,446.50
Chimacum Riparian Restoration	\$ 3,649.00	508.00	\$ 7,620.00	\$ 22,247.00	\$ 33,516.00
Summer Chum Hatcheries		1,543.50	\$ 23,152.50	\$ 15,242.00	\$ 38,394.50
Salmon Snow Watershed Restoration	\$ 2,500.00	26.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 91,031.00	\$ 93,921.00
Morse Creek Feasibility Study	\$ 3,477.00			\$ 75,500.00	\$ 78,977.00
Deep Creek Road Decommissioning				\$ 124,646.00	\$ 124,646.00
Chimacum Estuary	\$ 1,890.00	151.00	\$ 2,265.00	\$ 17,048.00	\$ 21,203.00
Salt Creek Habitat Assessment				\$ 276,819.00	\$ 276,819.00
Membership and Fin		6.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,490.00	\$ 1,580.00
Office Operations	\$ 16,865.00				\$ 16,865.00
TOTAL	\$ 148,319.55	3,449.50	51,742.50	\$ 626,509.00	\$ 826,571.05

Who we are

NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION

OFFICERS 2006

BOARD CHAIR: Tom Ammeter - Chimacum School staff, Snohomish Tribal Council
 VICE CHAIR: Terry O'Brien - Sport fisherman, brewmaster, retired
 SECRETARY/
 TREASURER: Richard Wojt - Teacher, county commissioner, retired

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 200

Harry Bell - Silviculturist, Green Crow Partnership
 Marty Peckman - Owner coho spawning habitat, business owner
 Doug Morrill - Biologist, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
 Kim Fairbanks - Educator, shoreline landowner
 Ron Deisher - Sport Fisherman, executive, retired
 Jim Hackman - Talented volunteer, Fin guardian
 Mike Langley - Shoreline owner
 Jean Erreca - Sport fisher, shoreline resident, landscaper, retired

STAFF MEMBERS 2006:

Paula Mackrow	Executive Director
Kevin Long	Project Coordinator
Audrey Miles Cherney	Restoration Steward
Alisa Meany	Volunteer Coordinator
Alicia Aguirre	Restoration Steward
Joss Whittaker	Americorps Intern

CONTACT US:

North Olympic Salmon Coalition
 P.O. Box 699 Port Townsend WA 98368
 Ph. 360 379-8051
 e-mail : director@nosc.org www.nosc.org



Table of Accomplishments by WRIA

Categories:

- a) Number of barriers removed and miles of fish habitat opened up:
20 barriers were removed on coho tributaries to Salt Creek in partnership with Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and DNR. 12.5 miles of habitat opened up WRIA 19
- b) Riparian Planting:
NOSC monitored and maintained over 8,000 feet of streambank buffer revegetation. The planting area width averaged about 75 feet wide in WRIA 17, and WRIA 19
- c) Feet/miles of fencing:
None
- d) Number of screening projects- **None**
- e) Number of carcasses placed for nutrient enhancement: **None**