Lower Discovery Bay Restoration Project
This multi-phase, multi-year project was conceived of nearly a decade ago and construction began in Spring 2014. The goal of this project is to restore a naturally functioning estuary and shoreline including beaches and marine riparian areas, critical habitat for ESA-listed summer chum salmon and steelhead, coho salmon, cutthroat trout, as well as numerous other fish and wildlife species such as Olympia oysters, shore birds, and forage fish. In 2014 we removed the creosote RR trestles and 1,280 feet of armoring, which included old broken concrete and fractured rock that was placed on the upper beach to keep the RR grade from eroding. Now, 1,800 feet of beach reside where only scotchbroom and blackberries dwelled before (even more length if you measure both sides of the spits!)

“Over 12,000 cubic yards of fill where removed by the project including 425 tons of contaminated soils. The area is transformed. If you haven’t stopped for a beach walk, do.” – Kevin Long, Project Manager

3 Crabs Nearshore Restoration Design and Demolition
The goal of this project is to restore the 3 Crabs nearshore and estuary, a coastal inlet connected to the Dungeness River Estuary by Meadowbrook Creek. During 2013 and 2014 staff worked with landowners, stakeholders and community partners to begin the design of this project. When implemented, the proposed restoration actions will help recover lost Dungeness River Delta services by restoring freshwater input, tidal flow and sediment transport. Building demolition occurred in October 2013. Engineering designs are at 30% completion and construction is slated for spring/summer 2015.
Kilisut Harbor Restoration Design
In 2014, we received design funding for a project that will recreate over 27 acres of historic tidal channels and reconnect a salt marsh linkage between southern Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay to restore self-sustaining ecosystem processes to approximately 2,300 acres of highly productive salmonid habitat in Kilisut Harbor. These actions will re-establish a major northern and southern migratory passage in an area of superb nearshore habitat between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay for juvenile and adult salmon. During this past year, we hired an engineering contractor to take the project to 100% design. To date the engineering effort has developed hydraulic models to determine feasibility of various design scenarios and developed 30% design drawings.

Dawley Shoreline Restoration Project
The goal of this project is to restore a 450 ft. piece of shoreline on Sequim Bay to benefit juvenile and adult salmon. We will seek to remove a failing pier, home and shoreline armoring set atop the beach to restore ecological function of this nearshore habitat. This property was generously donated to the USFWS by the Dawley family of Sequim Bay.

Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project
The North Olympic Salmon Coalition initiated their Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Project in January 2014. We reached out to landowners on the Dungeness River in April 2014 and received landowner permission from over 50 landowners to remove butterfly bush and other noxious weeds from their properties. Staff and volunteers will spend the Summer of 2014 removing butterfly bush from the river as well as planting riparian areas in Spring 2015. By 2016, NOSC anticipates removing butterfly bush from 11 miles of the Dungeness River and planting over 75 acres of riparian habitat.

“The Washington Conservation Corps crew was contracted for its fourth year in 2013 and planted over 29,000 trees! This incredible team will be conducting much of the work on the Dungeness River Riparian project in the upcoming year. “ – Sarah Doyle, Stewardship Coordinator
Education Program Development and Vision

Even while running programs from Chimacum to Clallam Bay, Salmon Coalition staff have undertaken a process to revise the vision and scope of educational offerings. The vision that has emerged includes:

A. Developing educational curriculum that is linked to our larger restoration sites
B. Creating programs that work well together (such as training High School leaders to help with middle school and volunteer field days)
C. Bringing more structure to all of our programs in order to increase quality and efficiency
D. Reaching schools and adult learners throughout our region
E. Continuing to identify our niche in the environmental education community through collaboration with partners and classroom teachers

“With new curriculum that brings youth and adults to our impressive project sites, we are leveraging the restoration actions of today to inform and inspire the next generation.” – Reed Aubin, Volunteer and Education Program Manager.

Community Outreach

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition has become more visible within our community, with consistent newspaper coverage in the Port Townsend Leader, Peninsula Daily News and Sequim Gazette throughout this past year. We have gratefully received large turnouts for volunteer plantings, fundraising events, and our 2013-2014 Member Events.

“Attending member events keeps me informed and inspired... restored landscapes, reclaimed habitat and new fish! Every time I walk a newly restored site the future looks a little brighter.” – Jean Erreca

Middle School Science

Students from Chimacum’s 6th grade received a series of hands-on classroom lessons about benthic macroinvertebrates. They made predictions about the health of Chimacum Creek by studying live insects that they identified using keys and dissecting scopes and analyzing the causes of decreased water quality. Our education program staff has identified middle school science as a cornerstone of our curriculum and has begun a process of updating our lessons and programs to meet the Next Generation Science Standards.

High School Environmental Leadership

North Olympic Salmon Coalition worked with high school students from Sequim High School and the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center’s Natural Resource classes to teach students about different types of stream restoration activities and their ecological benefits. Students helped plant native trees along Chimacum and Snow Creeks, studied estuary and nearshore habitats and cleaned up residual debris at Meadowbrook Creek after building demolition at the 3 Crabs Restoration Site. They studied riparian systems and analyzed several properties for restoration potential. Many students and their families have attended additional events, and our stylish apparel has begun to be seen around campus. Students from Chimacum High and Sequim High have signed on for substantial leadership projects with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition slated to begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

FIN the Giant Salmon

FIN, our 25-foot-long, two ton female chum salmon sculpture, was brought to 27 schools and festivals throughout the Pacific Northwest this past year. Youth and adults can climb inside FIN to view a mural of a Pacific Northwest watershed, complete with over 100 different native plants and animals. She is an integral part of our family, helping us raise awareness of salmon watersheds and over $7,400 in rental fees to support the organization in 2013-2014.
Spawner Surveys
The North Olympic Salmon Coalition coordinated volunteer-staffed spawner surveys for summer chum and coho in the Chimacum watershed in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Our volunteers assisted with adult and smolt traps at Jimmycomelately and Salmon Creeks and walked Chimacum Creek counting summer chum and coho, collecting scales and tissue samples for DNA and age identification analysis.

“Counting chum salmon along Chimacum Creek has been one of our more ‘aromatic’ Salmon Coalition adventures. We loved it! The staff make our volunteering fun, interesting and worthwhile.” – Normandie Anderson

Salmon Festival
North Olympic Salmon coalition responded to a community request to revive a local East Jefferson County tradition of a salmon festival. A “microfestival” was held Nov. 22, 2013 in Chimacum, with over 130 people attending. A community group has come together to plan a Fall 2014 festival, and staff have provided logistical support to their planning process.

Fundraising Committee
Our Fundraising Committee worked closely with our staff and volunteers to host several exciting fundraising events in 2013-2014. In January, Reed Aubin emceed our most successful Hilltop Cavern bingo month, raising over $3,000 for our work and mission. Inspired by this success, our fundraising committee and a group of dedicated volunteers launched our first-ever Golf Tournament in July to increase awareness of our organization and raise money for our education programs. This single event raised over $5,000 for the North Olympic Salmon Coalition.

Nursery
Our staff and volunteers continue to maintain a plant nursery on donated farmland in Jefferson County. This nursery holds over 1000 native trees and shrubs to be planted each year. This year saw an improvement in nursery operations, including creation and adoption of standard operating procedures, improved soil management, irrigation and installation of deer fencing.

“The support of all our volunteers made it possible for me to apply my skills and training in Forestry Science to the Salmon Coalition nursery. It’s in great shape.
– Larry Montague, Education and Outreach Assistant.
Mission
The mission of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is to restore, enhance and protect habitat of North Olympic Peninsula wild salmon stocks and to promote community volunteerism, understanding, cooperation and stewardship of these resources.

Purpose
In 1990, the Washington State Legislature created the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) program to involve local communities, citizen volunteers and landowners in the state's efforts to recover salmon to harvestable levels for recreational and commercial fishers. The North Olympic Salmon Coalition represents RFEG Region 7 which extends from the Hood Canal Bridge north and west along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We utilize local volunteer, community and business support to tackle salmon recovery in the watersheds of our region. Restored habitats provide increased feeding, resting and spawning opportunities for salmon, which directly contributes to the success of out-migrating and returning salmon in our local watersheds. We know that we may never recover habitat or salmon to historic levels, but we believe we can repair habitat and boost salmon numbers toward historic abundance.

2013-2014 Board of Directors
Harry Bell
Scott Chitwood
Howard Cunningham
Ron Deisher
Mike Langley
Cathy Lear
Andrew McGregor
Hannah Merrill
Dick Stockment
Jeff Taylor

2013-2014 Staff Members
Rebecca Benjamin – Executive Director
John Anderson – Finance Manager
Reed Aubin – Volunteer and Education Program Manager
Miranda Berger – Development Manager
Sarah Doyle – Stewardship Coordinator
Jac Entringer – Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
Nancy Erreca – Administrative Assistant
Kevin Long – Project Manager
Anna Lund – 2013 Education and Outreach Assistant, Americorps
Jamie Michel – Assistant Project Manager
Larry Montague – 2014 Education and Outreach Assistant, Americorps

2013-2014 WCC Crew Members
Owen French, Crew Supervisor
Zach Bollheimer (2013)
Kalepa Brown (2013)
Collin Cabe (2013)
Evan Runquist (2013)
Rick Humphrey (2013 and 2014)
Dylan Kelly (2014)
Kori Riggle (2014)
Robbie Holt (2014)
Elijah Roulst (2014)

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