COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

The second phase of our East Jefferson Riparian Recovery Program came to a close in June of 2018. The project led to 38 acres of riparian restoration on Chimacum, Snow and Salmon creeks. We will continue phase three of the project working with willing landowners to restore valuable riparian habitat.

In this long-term partnership with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, we work with landowners on the Dungeness River to restore riparian habitat through the removal of invasive butter/ly bush and knotweed, followed by installation of native vegetation.

Dungeness River Riparian Recovery Program

East Jefferson Riparian Recovery Program

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Hoko River, with its extensive tributaries, expansive floodplains and forested wetlands, has been identified as a priority watershed for removal of fish barriers. Chinook, coho, chum and steelhead all inhabit the Hoko. In places, these fish are blocked from access to spawning grounds and important off-channel habitat essential for rearing juveniles and for shelter during high flows. This project involves getting on-the-ground data of this watersheds habitats and culverts. Data will be used to prioritize fish barriers for removal based on the ecological benefit and project cost.

Hoko Inventory, Year 2 of 3

In partnership with a private timber owner and with funding from the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, we will open 6.2 miles of salmon and trout habitat on a tributary of the Hoko River. Construction began in November of 2018.

Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project

Planning and permitting are still in process for this landscape scale restoration project. In partnership with the WA Dept. of Transportation, US Navy and tribal governments, the project will re-create 20 acres of historic tidal channels to connect southern Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay. This will restore a critical juvenile salmon migration route and self-sustaining ecosystem processes to approximately 2,300 acres.

Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project

The multi-partner project is working with landowners on Chimacum Creek to protect and restore perennial wetland habitat that provides water quality benefits and critical rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon. Through this project our partner, the Jefferson Land Trust, is working with two landowners to acquire conservation easements that will pave the way for future habitat restoration.

Chimacum Protection and Restoration Planning Project

“Healthy populations of wild salmon define the ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest. There is no ecosystem impact that does not affect salmon— from logging, house development, road building, farming, forest fires, oil spills, pesticide spraying, etc. If you care about where you live and want it clean and healthy, then you care about salmon populations and how to keep them healthy.”

– Joel Kawahara - Commercial fisherman

Fin the Migrating Salmon celebrated her 30th birthday this year at the Port Townsend Orca Festival punctuating the inextricable link between salmon and orca. For her birthday, Fin’s mural was rehabilitated to its original vibrancy by Andrea Lawson. Alba Creative created and gifted the beautiful 6’ banner seen here.

The Real Learning Real Work Restoration Engineering Program brings students outside to connect with their local salmon streams and to develop a better understanding of healthy ecosystems. Visiting restoration sites and engaging with professional biologists and restoration practitioners, inspires a context for developing essential problem-solving skills and building future career goals.

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– a local student

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The mission of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is to promote robust wild salmon stocks for families, fishers, and local economies by furthering habitat restoration and education on the North Olympic Peninsula.

A heartfelt thanks to Pens and Beetles Studios for donating the design of this annual report, and to Lindsey Aspelund, Charles Espey and NOSC staff for photo contributions.