

## Salmon Coalition Family Reunion A Note from Executive Director, Rebecca Benjamin

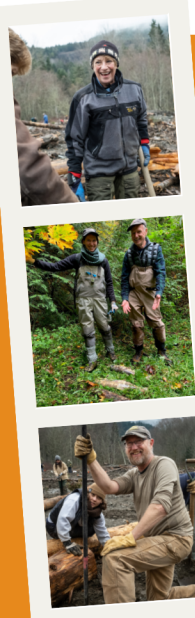
The Salmon Coalition is so lucky to have an amazing mission: *To promote robust wild salmon stocks for families, fishers, and local economies by furthering habitat restoration and education on the North Olympic Peninsula.* Our approach to this work includes large-scale projects, riparian restoration, education programs, and a robust outreach and volunteer program. Partnering with our community, local landowners, and volunteers allows us to accomplish far more than this small but mighty organization could do on our own. In thinking about the things I'd like to celebrate from this past year, it feels a little bit like Groundhog Day because every year I'm so grateful for our dedicated volunteers, our hardworking board, our powerful staff, and our strong partner relationships. We got back to in-person events last year and had the most incredible, energetic turnout at our planting events. It felt like a huge family reunion – seeing smiling faces and welcoming friends, past members of our Washington Conservation Corps teams, past staff, and current family, spouses, and partners. We got our hands dirty together and had fun catching up, all while planting trees for healthy riparian areas. We shared Sarah's blondies and Lindsay's brownies over steaming cups of coffee and cider. NOSC's mission is impactful. You are part of the team that makes this work possible, and together we have made progress towards salmon recovery!

*Rebecca Benjamin*



### Powered by Caring People Volunteers at the Root of our Success

It seems like every year the Salmon Coalition somehow manages to eclipse the previous years' accomplishments when it comes to salmon habitat restoration and education on the northern Olympic Peninsula. Being a staff of just 8 employees, there is simply no way we could do the work we do on our own. What's the secret to our success? It's our incredibly dedicated group of volunteers! From planting native trees and shrubs to surveying spawning salmon in Chimacum Creek, to helping facilitate field trips with local students, our volunteers are the heart of our organization. Just this past year, NOSC volunteers dedicated over 2,750 hours of service in the name of salmon stewardship. If you played a part in achieving this remarkable total – thank you! We deeply appreciate having the support and commitment of community members like you! If you have never volunteered with the Salmon Coalition, but would like to join in on the fun, check out our website for events in this upcoming year.



### Real Learning Real Work Restoration Engineering Expanding our STEM Program Further West

For our first full year of in-person education programming since the pandemic, our middle school *Real Learning Real Work* restoration engineering program grew its reach by working with four middle schools – Clallam Bay, Sequim, Chimacum, and Blue Heron (Port Townsend).

Due to pandemic disruptions with in-person learning, this was the first time almost 200 Sequim 7th graders got to participate in a full program. We were happy to welcome back Clallam Bay 7th & 8th graders to the Pysht River, their first program since the 2018-19 school year. Throughout the year, 395 middle school students in Clallam and Jefferson Counties actively applied Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills to both classroom activities and field restoration work. Their dedication contributed to enhancing the quality of habitats along three distinct streams crucial for supporting salmon populations. *Thanks to WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), WA State Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington State University: Jefferson County Extension and the Puget Sound Partnership for funding this year's program.*



Clallam Bay students work together to implement the restoration project they spent the year designing to restore salmon habitat on the Pysht River.



## Upper Cowan Ranch Designing Floodplain Restoration with Large Wood

Have you ever driven west of Clallam Bay, out toward Lake Ozette? If so, you have driven along the Hoko River and through Washington State Park's Upper Cowan Ranch. The river at this location has undergone bed scour and channel simplification due to the absence of large wood within the system. To remedy that, we are working with Natural Systems Design and the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes and have completed a design for restoration. The design calls for construction of approximately 25-30 engineered log jams (ELJs) and extensive floodplain and side channel excavation on 1.2 miles of the Hoko River. The project will reconnect 46 acres of Hoko River floodplain, targeting restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, coho, chum and steelhead. The anticipated work would take place on land owned by Washington State Parks, the Lydiard Family, and Fruit Growers Supply Company. *Design Funding provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.*



Photo of Discovery Bay by John Gussman

## Farms and Fish

### Collaboration in the Heart of Chimacum Valley

Last year NOSC worked with renowned local filmmaker, Jessica Plumb, to tell the story of collaboration between farmers, the Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition in Chimacum Valley. In March of 2023 we premiered the film 'Farms and Fish: Thriving Together' to our community. The event showcased the work we are doing with engineers to develop innovative restoration designs for Kodama Farm which would allow for fish habitat restoration amidst productive farmland. We also answered audience questions about the intersection between farms and salmon habitat restoration with Sarah Spaeth (JLT), Crystie Kisler (Finnriver Cidery), Rebecca Benjamin (NOSC) and Kevin Long (NOSC). We are always grateful for the support of our community and partners as we navigate complex projects. *Funding provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Protection Agency.*

Crystie Kisler, Sarah Spaeth and Rebecca Benjamin answer questions from the Audience at the 'Farms and Fish' film premier.



## Financials 2022-2023

