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CHEHALIS BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE

CBFTF NEWS REEL

SUCCESS: 1,404,900 Salmon Released in '06 9.39 Miles of Habitat To Be Opened

In 2006, 1.4 million salmon were released into various tributaries of the Chehalis River. In addition to this, by the end of this summer three carefully planned projects will cumulatively open 9.39 miles of habitat for salmonids, resident fish, and other aquatic life, with a fourth project addressing high amounts of sedimentation that impacts salmonid spawning habitat. A breakdown, project by project, will outline these contributions to the Chehalis Basin below.

FISH ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS	Species	Released
Carlisle Environmental Education	Coho	100,000
Long Live the Kings/ Mayr Bros.	Chinook	30,000
Long Live the Kings/ Mayr Bros.	Chum	200,000
Long Live the Kings/ Mayr Bros.	Coho	300,000
Satsop Springs	Chinook	94,900
Satsop Springs	Chum	230,000
Satsop Springs	Coho	450,000
TOTAL		*1,404,900*

HABITAT PROJECTS	Tributary	Species	Miles Opened
Dekay Rd. Project/Polson Creek	East Fork Hoquiam River	Coho, Cutthroat, Chum, Chinook and Steelhead	3
Gerhard Project/ Forest Creek	Independence Creek	Coho, Cutthroat, and Searun Cutthroat	5.26
Lentz Project / Unnamed Creek	East Fork Hoquiam River	Coho, Cutthroat, and Steelhead	1.13
Wishkah Sedimentation Reduction/ Wishkah River	Chehalis River	Coho, Cutthroat, Chum, Chinook, and Steelhead	NA
TOTAL			*9.39*

The Wishkah River Gets Relief

The Wishkah River, a tributary of the Chehalis River, is approximately 40 miles long and flows south, draining the slopes of the Olympic Mountains, joining the Chehalis River at Aberdeen. In a collaborative effort with Grays Harbor County and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the CBFTF has been able to organize the Wishkah Sedimentation Reduction Project to drastically reduce the sedimentation problem saddled on the Wishkah.

Prior to project construction, the Wishkah was 452% above natural background sediment loading, uncommon for rivers in Western Washington. Contributing 86% to the entire river basin were three main log and gravel haul roads. The roads involved were the Wishkah County Rd., and two logging roads owned by private timber companies. One of the two privately owned roads is scheduled to be corrected by or before 2016, with the other company committed to corrections by adding cross drains and asphalting the road surface at the private companies expense in conjunction with updates to the County road.

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Membership is vital to the ongoing work of the Task Force. Invite a friend to join you with our efforts for producing salmon for sport and commercial fisheries; enhancing Steelhead and Cutthroat trout resources; and restoring, enhancing and protecting stream habitat critical to these anadromous species. Please pass this monthly newsletter on to someone who may be interested...

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Organization: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

- ☐ Silver Membership $15
- ☐ King Membership $30
- ☐ Associate Enhancer $60
- ☐ Patron Enhancer $100
- ☐ Golden Enhancer $500
- ☐ Business Membership $200
- ☐ Corporate Membership $500

Membership is: ☐ Individual ☐ Organizational

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(continued) The Wishkah River Gets Relief

In a domino effect, the sedimentation is delivered to the river. "Frequent heavy truck traffic during winter months when the road is wet grinds the road surface gravels into fine sediment which fills the road ditches, causing them to fail," said Lonnie Crumley, Project Manager, "Undersized and infrequent cross drains do not adequately direct storm water from the road surface into ditches and away from flowing stream courses. Sediment-laden water from poorly-constructed road ditches flows directly into small streams crossing under the road into the river. Much of the road has no ditching and at low spots standing storm water causes high sediment concentrations from truck traffic. This is carried by trucks and other vehicles down the road corridor where it enters the existing inadequate drain system, exacerbating the problem."

The Long Live the Kings Hatchery manager, Terry Baltzell, has fought the road sediment problem for several years. It was at his prompting that the county and timber companies paved the road near the hatchery (the Long Live the Kings facility is located 20 miles up the Wishkah on a 35-acre site). "This is something that has been of great concern of mine for over 30 years. There are 22 culverts in a 2 mile section of the road just south of the Mayr Fish Hatchery. The sediment load in that particular section of the road is the highest of any part of the county road that is not paved," said Terry.

As of June 2006, the corrections have been made to two of the three roads concerned with the sedimentation; the county road, and the privately owned road which was scheduled for repair contingent upon the county portion being updated.

The Wishkah River supports naturally-spawning stocks of Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, chum, and Cutthroat. The sediment from these gravel-surfaced roads impact spawning gravels and the egg-to-emergence survival of all salmonid species in the river. Overall, Coho are declining, while Chinook and steelhead runs are healthy, according to a stock status report from WDFW Region 6 staff. The project objective was to address the unnatural sedimentation that affects the spawning habitat of these salmonids, which has successfully done.