



Western Washington University  
**Western CEDAR**

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Seattle, Wash.)

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May 2nd, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

## **Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Community Based Restoration: the value of developing partnerships for salmon recovery**

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<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2014ssec/Day3/38>

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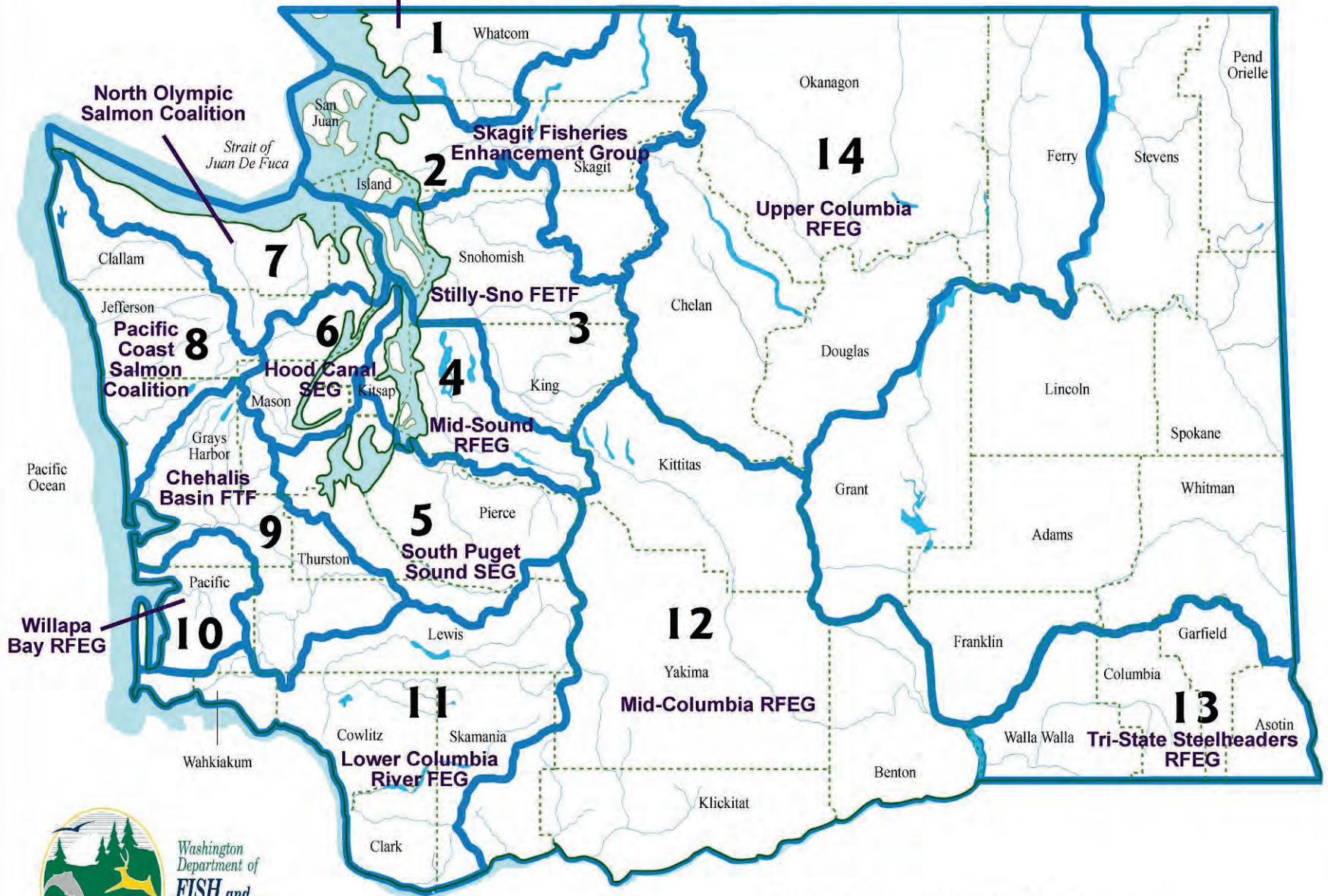
# Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Community-Based Habitat Restoration

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

May 2, 2014

Michelle Murphy  
Stewardship Manager

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association



# Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Boundaries

# Who is Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group?



- Non-Profit Organization founded in 1991
- Funded by grants, members and donations
- Mission: *“Involving our Community in Restoring Wild Salmon Populations for Future Generations”*
- 12 volunteer Board of Directors
- 10 staff members, including 5 full-time restoration technicians
- 2 full-time AmeriCorps interns
- Contract with WCC Crew
- Contract with Whatcom County Corrections Crew
- Interns, Volunteers





What we do:



# Partners

- Private Landowners, community members, citizen groups
- Local, state and federal governments
- Native American tribes
- Other non-profits



# Community Volunteers

- **2013 SFEG Volunteers Stats**
  - Over 8,000 hours valued at \$184,000
- **Community Workdays:**
  - Riparain planting and Nursery events
- **Volunteer Monitoring**
  - Spawner surveys
  - Vegetation Monitoring
  - Instream Monitoring
  - Siening
- **Internships**





# Native Plant Nursery

- Overseen by WCC Intern
- Over 7,000 potted plants
- Water, weed, shade, fertilize, and transplant
- Hundreds of volunteer hours annually







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# Spawner Surveys

- Volunteers monitor 30 sites weekly October -February
- Over 400 hours annually
- Volunteers trained to monitor 17 sites walking over 10 miles each week
- Over 22,000 Coho, Chinook, chum, pink and kokanee counted
- 30 volunteers



Photo by Matt Wallis, Skagit Valley Herald





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# Seining for Fish

- Using volunteers to monitor fish populations and do fish rescue





# Education

## Junior Stream Stewards

- Year long classroom education for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, over 600 students

## Kids in Creek

- K-12 classroom lesson and service learning project

## Salmon in the Classroom

- Elementary school students raise salmon eggs and release in creeks

## Hatchery Tours

- Train volunteers to educate the public at hatchery

## Community Events

- Watershed Tours, Salmon Festival



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# Junior Stream Stewards

- Education program for middle school students
- Links community stewardship with salmon and watershed education
- Engages students in classroom presentations & field trips
- Inspires and encourages community participation to preserve local watershed
- Over 600 students





# Festivals and other events

- Salmon Festival
- Samish Watershed Tour
- Youth Summit Conference NCI
- Sound Waters & Storming the Sound
- Annual Meeting
- Internship fairs and volunteer fair
- Citizen Science Symposium
- Conservation Tour
- Penn Cove Water Festival





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# Restoration 2013

- 55 sites riparian restoration sites and 44 landowners
- 35,646 native plants
- 148 acres
- 2.5 miles of rivers, streams and shorelines
- 4 fish passage projects, 5.5 miles of habitat opened, \$550,000 to local economy.





# Samish Knotweed Revegetation Program

- 2011 grant from DOE, program in partnership with the Samish Tribe
- **Goals:**
- Riparian revegetation on 30 acres
- Outreach and education in the watershed
- Support for knotweed survey and treatment
- Improved water quality
- Skagit CWMA



Samish Indian Nation

# Skagit County NRSP

- Skagit County Department of Natural Resource
- Started in 2009, 30 landowner, 36 acres planted, 1.4 miles of fencing
- Funding is provided by Washington state Department of Ecology's, Centennial Clean Water grant and the Skagit County Clean Water fund
- Inspire land owners to participate in protecting and enhancing water quality
- Designed to fund small riparian fencing and fish habitat restoration projects
- Designed to improve water quality
- Further community awareness
- A four year program





# SKAGIT COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA)

- Identify and prioritize species to be managed in the CWMA.
- Share information regarding weed inventories, management and maps on an annual basis.
- Share existing educational program materials and develop new resources that fill gaps in the resources available for public education, in particular educational/training resources for landowners.
- Share equipment and resources.
- Promote restoration and release of native vegetation associated with riparian and aquatic areas.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for long term funding of the



# SKAGIT CWMA WORKING GROUP 2013

## Members

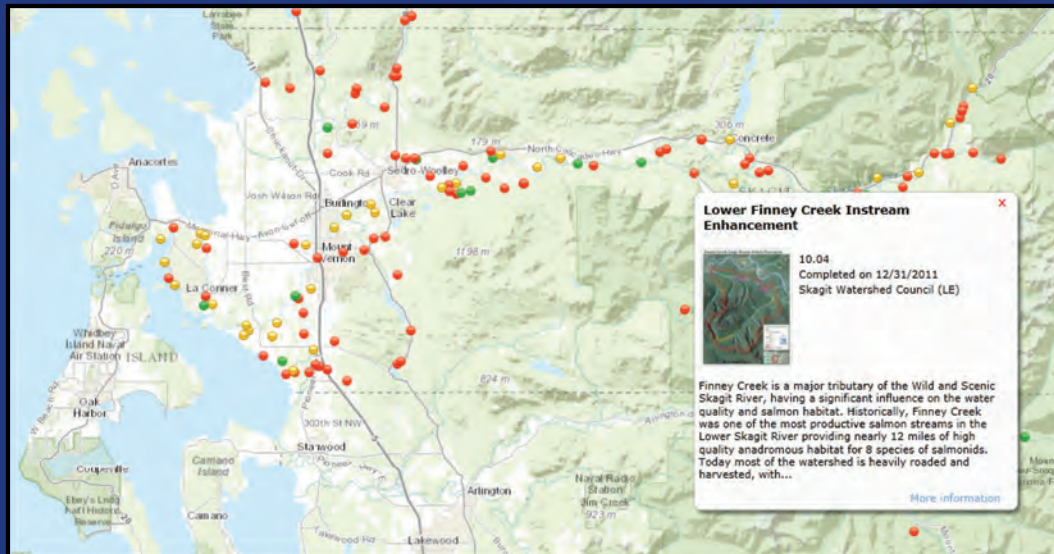
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington DNR
- North Cascades National Park
- Seattle City Light
- Snohomish Co. Weed Board
- Skagit Co. Weed Board
- Whatcom Co. Weed Board
- The Nature Conservancy
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Skagit Land Trust
- Samish Tribe

## Partners

- Washington Dept. of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Conservation Corps
- WSU Extension
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Upper Skagit Tribe
- Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
- US Forest Service

# Habitat Work Schedule

- HWS is The Lead Entity Habitat Work Schedule system is the mapping and project tracking tool that allows Lead Entities to share their habitat protection and restoration projects with the public. The purpose of the HWS system is to help put restoration actions on the ground. By mapping projects, linking them to each other and recovery goals, and making it all available on the web, the HWS system makes salmon recovery more accessible to partners, potential funders, and the public.
- SFEG has entered all of our projects in HWS and has created an interactive map on our websites that links to these projects.





# Questions?

## Contact Information:

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