



Roads to Success for Sediment Reduction—Working with a Fisheries Enhancement Group

- 1999-2001
- Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker and Darrington Ranger Districts
- Partner: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Project description

The Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association worked together to identify forest roads in the Nooksack Watershed that were delivering sediment to important salmon-bearing streams, and secured major funding to treat 37.5 road miles.



The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association is one of 14 regional fisheries enhancement groups in Washington State working to restore salmonid populations and habitat. Based on the watershed survey work with the Forest, the Association was able to secure a \$500,000 grant through the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. A portion of the funds were used to conduct two road decommissioning/storage projects and one culvert-to-bridge upgrade. The Forest laid out the projects and provided project oversight. The Forest was reimbursed for staff salaries as part of the grant.



Culvert to bridge upgrade on the Nooksack River.
Photo courtesy Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Benefits

The Forest and the Association were able to achieve common goals for restoring fish habitat.

Keys to success

“It’s important to keep the same field staff working on the project the whole time. It provides stability to the project and allows you to develop mutual trust and respect,” says Roger Nichols, engineering geologist for the Forest. “And the Forest uses a systematic, partnership-based approach to whole watersheds in order to address chronic road drainage deficiencies that plague the Forest’s low-volume road system.”

Type of agreement

Challenge Cost Share Agreement

Project costs and contributions to treat 37.5 miles of road

Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest:

- Laid out each project and provided project oversight.
- Provided \$93,000 value in rock, culverts, and supplies.

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association:

- Initiated the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant (\$500,000).
- Hired the contractor and provided contract oversight.

Estimated savings

These projects would not have been done without this partnership.

More information

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Find this story and more at the Partnership Resource Center website: <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/roads/success-stories.php>

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