



SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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Fish Passage Improvement

Restoring salmon access to healthy habitat remains a top priority in our local watersheds. Through the Skagit Watershed Culvert Group, a long-standing partnership with tribal and county governments, Skagit Fisheries helps identify and remove barriers that block salmon from reaching essential habitat.

In 2025, we made significant progress by completing two fish passage projects and advancing design work at eight additional sites. On Carpenter Creek, replacing a barrier culvert on Ervine Lane with a 30-foot steel bridge reopened 2.5 miles of high-quality habitat for coho, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout as part of a watershed-

wide effort that will ultimately restore nearly 9 miles for salmon migration. Additional Carpenter Creek projects are planned for 2026 and 2027.

In the Nookachamps watershed, we replaced an under-sized driveway culvert on East Fork Walker Creek with an 11-foot structure, reopening 1.8 miles of habitat for Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and lamprey. Spawner survey volunteers have already documented salmon returning to these areas, demonstrating these investments truly opening the way for salmon.

Culvert on Carpenter Creek before replacement.

New bridge on Carpenter Creek opens 2.5 miles of habitat for salmon.



Volunteer Involvement:
7,035 Hours
donated by community volunteers

Community Outreach:
2,169 Individuals
reached through community engagement programs

Riparian Plantings:
31,178 Native plants
over 98 acres of streams and shorelines revegetated with native plants

New Fish Passage Projects:
4.3 Miles
of habitat opened by replacing two fish passage barriers.

Kids Educated:
1,491 Students
engaged in environmental science education programs

Knotweed Surveyed:
20.4 Miles
of river surveyed for invasive knotweed

Education Programs

Skagit Fisheries' education programs give local students meaningful, hands-on experiences that connect them to salmon, healthy habitat, and the Skagit watershed. In 2025, we launched the new River Journey (Recordo por el Río) program, where 50 English-language learners in middle and high school explore the watershed from mountains to sound through river rafting, canoeing, stream studies, and service projects. Through these immersive field experiences, students discover the Skagit's ecosystems and gain a deeper sense of belonging, confidence, and connection to the natural world.

Our staff and interns also worked with 1,441 students across 14 elementary schools through our Salmon in Schools program, guiding them as they cared for and released young coho salmon into nearby streams. This up-close experience fosters curiosity, environmental awareness, and a lasting sense of stewardship. Together, these programs help young people see themselves as part of the future of salmon recovery and of this community. These education programs faced significant funding challenges this year and your support ensured students continued access to meaningful environmental education. With your help, we can continue inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders.



River Journey students explore the Upper Skagit



Students release young salmon in Hansen Creek

Planting for the Future

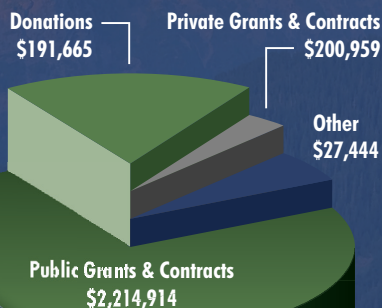
Restoring riparian areas along waterbodies is a key strategy for salmon restoration in the Skagit watershed. In 2025, Skagit Fisheries partnered with private and public landowners to plant more than 31,000 native plants. Community members, students, staff, interns, and Washington Conservation Corps members made this massive number of trees planted possible. Most projects took place along Skagit River sloughs, known to be important habitat for Chinook salmon. Additionally, one of the smaller streams where planting took place was Little Carey's Creek in Hamilton. Here a straightened stream channel was re-meandered through a forested area to improve salmon habitat and connectivity to a large wetland complex. These native plantings strengthen the entire ecosystem by creating wildlife habitat and filtering pollutants, helping keep local waterways clean and healthy.



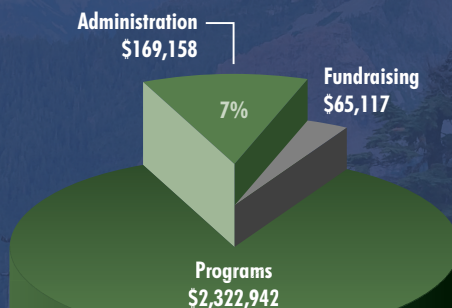
Volunteers plant trees for Earth Day

2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME
\$2,634,982



EXPENSES
\$2,557,217



Our mission is to engage our community in restoring salmon in the Skagit watershed through restoration, education, and stewardship.

Skagit Fisheries is an independent nonprofit 501c(3) organization.
Tax ID#94-3165939

All donations are tax deductible to the extent that the law allows. Find out how you can donate at: SkagitFisheries.org



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Your commitment to healthy salmon fuels real change. Thanks to your support, salmon habitat is being restored and our watershed is growing stronger. Together, we're building a healthier future for our salmon, our rivers and our community.

Important support comes from



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