



# Education Undammed: The White Salmon River Experiential Learning Project

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# Partners

- Yakama Nation Fisheries
- USFWS Columbia Gorge Information & Education Office
- Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Underwood Conservation District
- PacifiCorp

**Funding:** Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)  
grant; in-kind



# Goals

- provide a science-based, locally relevant, experiential education program focused on removal of Condit Dam
- engage student and community citizens in their local watershed



# Main components

- In-class multimedia presentations at local schools
- Field trips to Condit Dam project area and other sites on WSR
- Education & outreach at community events, WS Library, and to landowners through workshops
- Community restoration project



# Time frame

2009: grant awarded

2010: planning & contacting schools, pre-scheduling

2011-2013: presentations and field trips, community events

2013: community restoration project on the White Salmon River



# Watershed Educator

- Crucial: dynamic, neutral & balanced presentation & interpretation
- 2011-2012 Maureen Phelan
- 2012-2013 Shalynn Lathrop



# In-class presentations

- **History & pre-history** of the basin
- **Current issues:** e.g. energy trade-offs, salmon habitat, sediment impacts, loss of lake resource
- **Future effects:** how will your backyard river look after dam removal? How long till salmon re-colonize, trees grow back..?
- **Media:** videos of breach, fish rescue & transport, news



# Field trips



- Pre- and post- decommissioning
- Pre-: NW lake boat launch, dam, flow line & surge tank
- Post-: Same areas as pre-, plus NW Bridge & Park
- Water quality monitoring (Henkle MS)





# Community Events



- White Salmon “Art & Wine Fusion”
- Hood River and Trout Lake county fairs, 2011
- Library display, Sept. 2011
- “Welcome Home, Salmon” art show, Sept. 2012
- White Salmon River Homecoming Celebration, Sept. 2012

# “Welcome Home, Salmon” art show

# WELCOME HOME SALMON

The White Salmon River welcomes returning Salmon for the first time in a century!

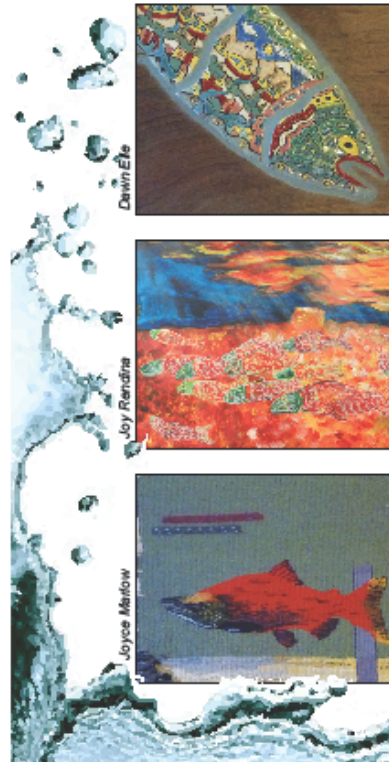
Come by the Sprint Gallery at the White Salmon Library during the month of September.

Join us for an art show celebrating the historic return of salmon and steelhead to the White Salmon River. Many local arts celebrate the salmon homecoming with beautiful pieces in a variety of sizes, colors, textures, and mediums.

Proceeds from the sale of art will support salmon habitat restoration on the White Salmon River.

**OPENING AND ARTISTS RECEPTION  
SEPT. 6, 2012 | 6:00 PM**

TO PURCHASE OR BID ON ART  
[WWW.MIDCOLUMBIARFEG.COM](http://WWW.MIDCOLUMBIARFEG.COM)



The White Salmon Library is located in Town & Country Square, near Wauna and Tohomish Streets in White Salmon. For more information about the art show or the White Salmon River, please visit: [www.midcolumbiarfeg.com](http://www.midcolumbiarfeg.com), or contact Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group at 509-281-1322, [fish@midcolumbiarfeg.com](mailto:fish@midcolumbiarfeg.com).

# “Welcome Home, Salmon” art show



# White Salmon River

## HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 29, 2012

### Opening of the River: A Community Raft Float

Explore the the river's whitewater from the seat of a raft with your fellow community members. This discounted raft trip is only available for local residents and will fill up fast! We will determine which river stretch once safety and access has been properly evaluated.

Reserve your spot by calling Wet Planet at 800-306-1673

WHERE: Wet Planet Whitewater, Husum Washington WHEN: 9:30 am - 1pm

### Community Salmon Bake

Share a free meal of salmon and fry bread with your watershed community. Food will be prepared by Yakama tribal cooks and local White Salmon watershed farms. Invocation by Yakama Nation. Parking at Wet Planet with shuttles to the park every 15 minutes.

WHERE: Northwestern Park, Washington WHEN: 3pm

Visit [whitesalmonriverhomecoming.eventbrite.com](http://whitesalmonriverhomecoming.eventbrite.com) to reserve your free meal ticket. Space is limited.

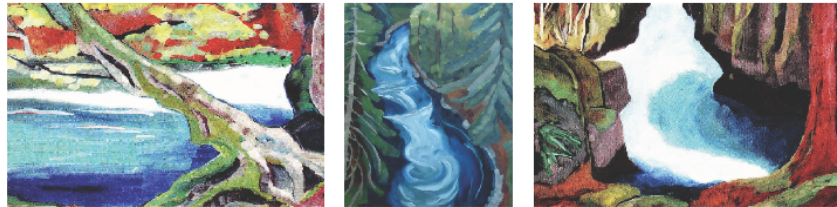


### Removing the Dam and Restoring the River

Come hear from various organizations and agencies who are working to understand, protect and restore the White Salmon River.

WHERE: Northwestern Park, Washington WHEN: 2 pm - 5 pm

For more information contact [susan@smhollingsworth.com](mailto:susan@smhollingsworth.com)



Elizabeth See

Friends of the  
White Salmon River



# White Salmon River Homecoming Celebration

- Co-hosted by YN, WetPlanet Whitewater, Friends of the White Salmon River, MCFEG
- Subsidized community raft float (WP)
- Informational booths
- Invocation and blessing, speeches
- Community salmon bake (YN) with other foods donated by Trout Lake orchards & farms





# Landowner Education

Underwood Conservation District provided three workshops in 2011:



- **Water rights, conservation and efficiency**
- **Livestock Management**, including on-farm demos addressing manure, runoff, pasture health, vegetation buffering, and riparian health
- **Stormwater Management and Low Impact Development** to reduce runoff, keep clean water clean, manage stormwater, etc.

# Extensions

- Henkle Middle School (WS) WQ monitoring; students present findings to Dr. Jane Goodall at Roots & Shoots conference
- PSU Ecosystems Services—case study
- CGCC WQ monitoring
- Columbia High School (WS) collaboration on restoration project





# Community restoration project (fall 2013)



- Ecotrust-funded WWRI grant project
- Collaboration with CHS
- Site prep, live stake planting, native plant revegetation, monitoring
- Students, neighbors, community members, volunteers

# The numbers

	Presentations	Field trips	Student contacts <sup>1</sup> (4 <sup>th</sup> gr.-college)	Teachers <sup>1</sup>	Volunteers/ public
2011	29	17	840	18	16
2012/ 2013 <sup>2</sup>	56	11	1464	48	70
Community events	6	-	-	-	~1200
Landowner workshops	5	-	-	-	78

<sup>1</sup> an individual could have been contacted more than once (e.g. presentation and field trip)

<sup>2</sup> Up to the present date

# Participating schools

- Whitson Elementary (WS)
- Henkle MS (WS)
- Columbia HS (WS)
- Mill A School
- Trout Lake School
- Glenwood School
- May St. Elementary (HR)
- Hood River MS
- Hood River Valley HS
- Skamania School
- Corbett School
- Chenoweth Elementary (The Dalles)
- Dry Hollow Elementary (The Dalles)
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- Portland State University



*“The presentations and field trips to the Condit Dam were not just a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, they were a priceless journey into the past, present and future for all the students and teachers.”*

-- Maureen Phelan,  
Watershed Educator

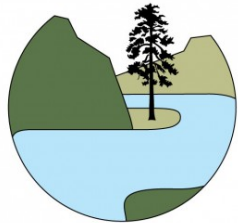


*“The kids now really realize that we are all stewards of the place where we live...I know I want them to think globally, but right now they focus on what they can see and be a part of. I think that new perspective has happened with the kids when they became part of this amazing history.”*



-Leslie Cunningham,  
Whitson Elementary  
4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

# Thank You



COLUMBIA  
GORGE  
ECOLOGY  
INSTITUTE



Friends of the  
White Salmon River

...and numerous volunteers!