

*Mid-Columbia Fisheries
Enhancement Group's
Yakima Basin salmon
recovery efforts*

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The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group:



- Focused on implementation of on-the-ground fish habitat enhancement projects.
- A non-profit organization managed by a volunteer board of directors.
- Not a political or advocacy organization.

Legislative History: RCW 75.50

- In 1989 the legislature established non-profit organizations (RFEGs) to produce salmon and restore habitat.
- Dedicated funds would come from a portion of fishing recreational and commercial fishing licenses and sales from eggs and carcasses.
- There are 14 RFEGs in Washington State.

RFEG Accomplishments & Outcomes, 1997 - 2007

In the first ten years of the program, the 14 RFEGs in Washington State have:

- completed 590 fish passage projects
- re-opened 647 stream miles
- restored 411 miles of habitat
- re-distributed 671,328 carcasses
- sponsored 2,616 enhancement & education programs
- facilitated 891,330 volunteer hours
- released over 62,000,000 fish
- received \$14,353,000 in state and federal funding, and
- leveraged an additional \$86,858,000 for salmon recovery.

How we fit into Yakima Basin recovery efforts:



- Project implementation, management & sponsorship
- Partner support
- Community involvement & education

Active projects



- **Project implementation, management & sponsorship**
 - **Naches River side channel**
 - **Cooper Bridge**
 - **Reecer Creek**
 - **Lower Taneum Creek**
- Partner support
- Community involvement & education

Naches River side channel



- Working with partners to reconnect the outlet of Powell Ditch with a wetland complex

Cooper Bridge, Phase 2

- Working with KCT, KCCD, and Forest Service to complete floodplain restoration near the confluence of Cooper and Cle Elum Rivers



Reecer Creek



- Working with RC&D, City of Ellensburg, YTAHP, WDFW and KCCD to restore habitat complexity

Lower Taneum Creek

- A 4-phased project to strengthen banks, decrease in-stream scour, and enhance floodplain function



Active projects



- Project implementation, management & sponsorship
- **Partner support**
 - **Taneum LWD**
 - **Nutrient availability study**
 - **Wide Hollow Creek**
- Community involvement & education

Taneum Creek LWD



- Support to Yakama Nation for manual harvest and placement of large wood in Taneum Creek

Nutrient Availability Study



- Support to CWU for undergraduate research on nutrient availability in Swauk, Taneum and Manastash Creek

Wide Hollow Creek



- Support to North Yakima Conservation District for improved fish passage, screening and water metering at Fines diversion

Active projects



- Project implementation, management & sponsorship
- Partner support
- **Community involvement & education**

Upper Yakima River Conservation Fund

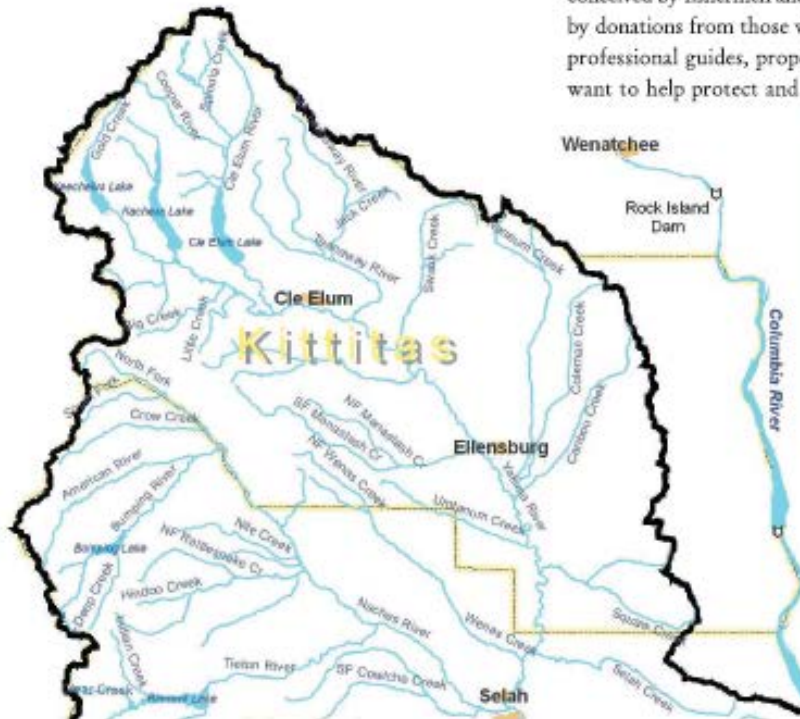
Helping to protect and restore the Yakima River



From Roslyn to Richland, the population of the Yakima Basin is growing at astounding rates. Human-caused changes in the watershed have had negative impacts on the river and the fish and wildlife that depend on it.



The Upper Yakima River Conservation Fund was conceived by fishermen and conservationists. The Fund is supported by donations from those who have a love of the river: individuals, professional guides, property owners, and local businesses who want to help protect and restore the Yakima River.



The goal of the Upper Yakima River Conservation Fund is to help leverage funds to support projects:

- To protect and restore salmon, steelhead, and trout habitat, and
- To ensure safe and adequate access to the river for anglers.

The focus of the Fund is the Yakima River upstream of its confluence with the Naches River.

Fish habitat projects include:

- removing passage barriers,
- replanting native riparian vegetation,
- fencing livestock out of streams, and
- protecting critical habitat.

Because the Fund is privately supported, it is an important tool in leveraging government grants that require matching funds. The fund is



being administered cooperatively between the Kittitas Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. One hundred percent of donations go to support projects.



Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

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