

ABSTRACT: Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is a non-profit (501c3) organization dedicated to restoring and protecting salmonid habitat. Mid-Columbia Fisheries is one of 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in Washington State. The RFE program was created by the legislature in 1990 and receives base funding through a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing license fees. The group is run by a volunteer board of directors and is not a political or advocacy organization.

The Mid-Columbia region includes several important steelhead and salmon rivers, notably the Wind River, the White Salmon River, the Klickitat River, the Yakima River, and numerous tributaries to the Columbia River. Our region includes all of the waterways in seven of Washington's Water Resource Inventory Areas, fully encompassing all of Klickitat, Benton, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties, as well as portions of Skamania and Franklin counties. The watersheds in this region provide habitat for seven salmonid species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as well as a number of sensitive and culturally significant stocks.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries takes a three-pronged approach to protecting and restoring fish habitat.

- ¢ We sponsor and implement high-quality habitat restoration and protection projects throughout our region.
- ¢ We help support the work of our partners by providing financial support for restoration and protection projects.
- ¢ We help support educational and community outreach programs that will promote the long-term commitment our society needs to protect fisheries resources.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries works with many partners including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, federal agencies, conservation districts, private landowners, local governments, schools and community groups.

We are currently developing projects in the White Salmon basin and have a number of on-going projects in the Klickitat basin. Projects in the Klickitat watershed include the following.

In 2007:

- ¢ We re-constructed and maintained nine miles of livestock enclosure fencing on tributaries to the Klickitat River.
- ¢ We planted 600 feet of the Little Klickitat River with native trees and shrubs.
- ¢ Community volunteers planted native trees along Spring Creek, a tributary to the Little Klickitat River.
- ¢ Mid-Columbia Fisheries continued our commitment to riparian restoration at the two properties along the lower mainstem Klickitat River, where crew members added additional plants and maintained plants installed in 2006.

In 2006:

- ¢ Six sites along the Klickitat River were planted with a hydraulic stinger in 2006 in a cooperative project with the Yakama Nation. First year survival data indicated good survival rates despite difficult site conditions.
- ¢ Volunteers and AmeriCorps members removed debris from the Klickitat River in October, 2006. A five foot diameter culvert was removed from the river by hand. The culvert had blown out of an upstream tributary a number of years before and was temporarily lodged in branches that were overhanging the active river channel.

New projects planned in 2008 include riparian planting along the Klickitat River and an instream project on Swale Creek in cooperation with the Yakama Nation.