

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

2004 Annual Report

Reporting period July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004

a) Mission Statement: The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's (MCFEG) mission is to restore self-sustaining salmonid populations through habitat preservation, enhancement and education projects which assist landowners and promote community partnerships in the mid-Columbia region.

b) MCFEG Overview: MCFEG has one of the largest regions in the state RFEG program. The region 12 area covers not only the middle Columbia River but the entire Yakima River watershed along with the Klickitat, Big and Little White Salmon and Wind River watersheds. MCFEG's success depends on the strength of our partnerships and effective project management by sponsors. Yakama Nation Fisheries Program biologists and restoration specialists have provided numerous hours of in-kind technical assistance on a number of MCFEG projects spanning from Ellensburg to Klickitat, WA.

MCFEG awarded funding assistance to three new projects this year, Lower Taneum Creek Restoration Phase II, Hanson Ponds Re-vegetation and Snow Mountain Ranch Acquisition and Restoration. MCFEG also set up a generic project account for project engineering, design and development costs and we were able to provide funding quickly to project sponsors in need of an appraisal or engineering plan.

Liz Kinne was on contract with MCFEG from 2001 through the end of the reporting period. During this time, Ms. Kinne authored and co-authored 14 grant proposals, of which, four have been awarded to MCFEG and nine are still pending. This has allowed MCFEG to leverage \$66,000 towards projects. In the town of Klickitat, landowner and volunteer support has increased dramatically since the creation and implementation of two volunteer and education programs, *Stream Stewards* and *Students for Salmon*.

c) Project Highlights:

Snyder Creek Restoration

Project Description: Snyder Creek, a major tributary to the Klickitat River, is located 15 miles north of Lyle, WA, along Hwy 142, near the town of Klickitat, WA. In 1927, the Champion International Mill constructed its operation directly over Snyder Creek. The stream bed was converted to a concrete sluiceway so the water from the creek would flow under the mill buildings. The cement sluiceway still exists but the mill shut down over twelve years ago. Native steelhead trout have historically utilized Snyder Creek for spawning and rearing (Haring, 2001) but have not been able to access the upper watershed due to the blockages constructed for the mill operation.

Four miles of high quality habitat exist above the abandoned mill. Yakama Nation fish biologists and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife made restoration of Snyder Creek a "top priority". The WRIA 30 Limiting Habitat Factors deems fish passage a key limiting habitat factor for Snyder Creek.

Construction of the Snyder Creek project began in July 2003, as a partnership between MCFEG, WDFW, and the Yakama Nation. The check dam at the head of the concrete flume (which created the mill pond) was removed and the area was re-channelized and spawning gravels were added. Two culverts upstream of the old mill pond were removed and bridges installed. Downstream of the old mill pond, a series of more than 100 concrete and log weirs were installed in various places which created the adequate drop, falls and pools. This work will be completed in November of 2004.

In November 2003, over 40 community volunteers participated in the initial stages of planting native vegetation in the old mill pond area as part of MCFEG's *Stream Stewards and Students for Salmon* programs. MCFEG plans on holding annual volunteer work parties until native vegetation is successfully established in the old mill pond area and along other suitable sites in the project area. MCFEG was awarded a \$12,500 FishAmerica Foundation grant toward this endeavor for 2004.

Project Partners: The Yakama Nation Fisheries Program contributed \$98,000 of their BPA funding toward the project. MCFEG contributed \$80,000 of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant toward the removal of the culverts and bridge installation. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board awarded the project \$400,000 which paid for the concrete and log weir construction and removal and re-channelization of the old mill pond area. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife managed and engineered the project along with contributing over \$200,000 in the final construction costs. Klickitat County also contributed toward initial clean-up phases of the project since the lower portion of the mill site is under their ownership.



Snyder Creek's new channel (old mill pond area)
Stream Stewards volunteer re-vegetation work party 11/04

Education and Outreach-Stream Stewards and Students for Salmon

Project Description: Education is a part of MCFEG's mission to return salmon to our streams and rivers. Our educational programs are designed to increase the public's awareness of the crucial interdependence between clean water, a healthy watershed, good salmon habitat, and self-sustaining salmon runs for the future of our communities. MCFEG piloted its volunteer programs in the town of Klickitat, WA in the fall of 2003.

The Stream Stewards program involves citizens throughout the mid-Columbia region in identifying, developing and implementing restoration projects taking place in local watersheds. Stream Stewards also receive background training and information from local science experts through presentations and field-based activities. MCFEG held six meetings and two on-the-ground projects with local volunteers and scientists, with over seventy people attending and participating.

The Students for Salmon program teaches elementary students required state science concepts based on four classroom lessons on watersheds, salmon, habitat and restoration/stewardship. A day was designated to field activities surrounding the Snyder Creek restoration project where students learned how to collect and interpret water quality data, perform macro-invertebrate studies and plant native vegetation. Klickitat elementary students worked with the local the **Stream Stewards** volunteer program in Snyder Creek's re-vegetation project. MCFEG taught 45 students with the classroom and field-based activities. An evening event was also held in Klickitat where students taught their families, friends and neighbor's knowledge they had gained throughout the program. Over 65 people attended this event entitled the Salmon Showcase.

Project Partners: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Klickitat School District, Klickitat Citizens Council.



Students for Salmon 2004 (macro invertebrate studies on Snyder Creek)

Lower Taneum Creek Restoration Phase II

Project Description: Taneum Creek is the largest intact tributary stream in this reach of the Yakima River and is one of the few Upper Yakima tributary streams accessible to anadromous fish (most tributaries are blocked by irrigation diversion dams and/or dewatered reaches). Historically, Taneum Creek supported anadromous spring chinook, coho and steelhead and presumably resident and fluvial bull trout (Bain, 2000). Spring chinook and steelhead runs still exist in Taneum Creek. Bull trout may use Taneum Creek but have not been observed in recent years.

Fish habitat and channel stability in lower Taneum Creek has been damaged by many years of intensive livestock grazing and channel realignment work. At present much of the shoreline is lacking in woody plants and there are areas of bank erosion and channel instability. No deep pools and little large woody debris exist to provide cover for fish. MCFEG sponsored a project on Stovall's property (Phase I) for \$3,930.00 which funded the installation of rock barbs, rootwads and re-vegetation. The landowner covered the remaining balance of the construction costs for \$500.00.

Phase II of this project began in October 2003 and established woody riparian plants along the immediate shoreline of the Stovall property. To increase the success of establishment and promote rapid growth, a drip irrigation system was installed to water plants for the establishment period (3-year minimum). The landowner will maintain the irrigation system for the life of the hardware to maximize plant growth and vigor. Large woody debris was installed in select locations where it provides both bank protection and in-channel cover.

Recently, a future third phase of the project was developed to expand the size of the woody riparian zone and introduce additional in-channel woody material to provide for habitat complexity. Floodplain connectivity will be re-established through the removal of an old dike and cobble/gravel plug and a series of rock barbs embedded with native vegetation will be constructed. MCFEG was awarded a WDFW Landowner Incentive Program and US Fish & Wildlife Service, Private Stewardship Grant Program funding Phase III for \$50,000. Phase III will be constructed in the fall of 2005.

Project Partners: MCFEG sponsored the Phase II project for \$20,000 and the Kittitas County Conservation District through the Yakima Habitat Tributaries Access Program contributed \$10,000 toward the re-vegetation materials and labor. WDFW biologists and engineers provided construction management, engineering and permitting in-kind.



Lower Taneum Creek rootwads 10/04

Table of Project Expenditures:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>RFEG Funds</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Volunteers Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>
Presher Springs	\$580.00			\$2,000.00 Central Klickitat C.D.	\$2,580.00
Snyder Creek (Klickitat Mill) SS & SFS	\$1,646.99	622	\$7,464.00	\$400,000.00 SRFB \$200,000.00 WDFW \$98,000.00 YNFP \$80,000.00 NFWF	\$787,110.99
Administration	\$4,828.39	24	\$288.00		\$5,116.39
Website	\$155.40	4	\$48.00		\$203.40
Program Coordinator	\$45,879.40	13	\$156.00		\$46,035.40
Yakima County Corrections Crew	\$430.22				\$430.22
Project Maintenance & Monitoring	\$1,772.35	58	\$696.00		\$2,468.35
Lmuma Creek	\$3,173.03	16	\$192.00		\$3,365.03
Engineering, Development & Design (Generic)	\$18,195.00				
L. Taneum Creek (Phase II)	\$14,345.44	36	\$432.00	\$10,000.00 YTHAP	\$24,777.44
Plant Materials	\$1,959.35	16	\$192.00		\$2,151.35
Roza Creek Lease	\$300.00				\$300.00
Hanson Ponds Re-vegetation	\$4,157.26			\$394,506.62 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery \$10,000.00 WDOT \$200,000.00 City of Cle Elum	\$608,663.88
Blockhouse Cr.		30	\$360.00		\$360.00
Totals	\$97,422.83	819	\$9,828.00	\$1,394,506.62	\$1,483,562.45

Who We Are:

a) Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCFEG)



b) Board of Directors:

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