



TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS

SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP

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2022 Accomplishments



17 *Salmon in School* sites for 21-22 school year

165 kids attend Kids' Fishing Days

650 salmon tossed in the Tucannon River for nutrient enhancement

1,200 feet of Mill Creek treated for fish passage

Our mission is to restore sustainable populations of native salmonids by enhancing habitat, providing public education, and promoting recreational angling. Our projects and programs fall into three mission areas:

RESTORATION

Mill Creek Fish Passage Construction – Fish passage improvements were completed in September to 1,200 feet of channel between Division and Roosevelt Streets. Funding was secured in 2019 from the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and matching funds were provided by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Bonneville Power Administration.

Mill Creek Fish Passage Design – Final designs for the sections between 3rd and 6th Avenues and between Spokane and Park Streets were completed in April.

Another design project is evaluating alternatives to address a new passage barrier in Mill Creek at Gose St. caused by the 2020 flood. A long-term passage solution must account for a bridge and flood control infrastructure at the site.

Bridge to Bridge Restoration

The Bridge to Bridge project is intended to improve in-stream habitat, riparian habitat, and floodplain function on about two miles of the lower Walla Walla River. Field work and design work for Phase 3 were initiated with an engineering consultant this year. Plans are expected to be completed in early 2023.

Brewer Wetland

This 23-acre site has been improved with mitigation funding for impacts to regional wetlands. In 2022, 300 forbs were planted for pollinator benefit, and site maintenance was conducted to reduce competition from weeds.

EDUCATION

Salmon in School: The Salmon in School program allows students a hands-on STEM learning experience through raising and releasing salmon. For the 2021-2022 school year, the program provided 17 aquariums serving over 650 students at schools in Walla Walla, Columbia, and Garfield counties.

RECREATION

Jumbo Trout Program: Tri-State Steelheaders continued to support the WDFW Jumbo Trout Program by purchasing food used to raise about 4,000 rainbow trout. “Jumbos” are about 1.5 – 2 pounds, and are released into approximately 20 southeastern Washington lakes, including Bennington Lake in Walla Walla.

Kids Fishing Days: Kids’ Fishing Days resumed in 2022 after a two-year hiatus. Tri-State Steelheaders and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers co-sponsored the annual Kids Fishing Day at Bennington Lake on the Free Fishing Weekend in June. In July, we partnered with the Forest Service to hold a Kids Fishing Day at Jubilee Lake. A total of 165 kids registered at the events. Rods and reels were available to loan to kids who did not have gear of their own. New fishing poles and other prizes were given out in a raffle and to winners of the Casting Contest and Biggest Fish Contest. Participants also enjoyed free hot dogs and soda.