



TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS

SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP

PO Box 1375 Walla Walla, WA 99362 | (509) 529.3543 | www.tristatesteelheaders.com

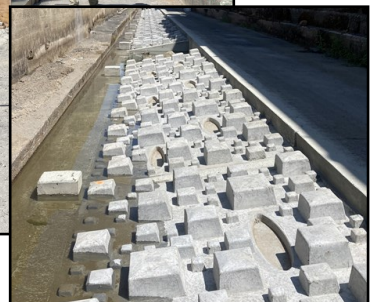
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2 Mill Creek fish passage projects completed

27 *Salmon in School* sites for 23-24 school year

2,300 feet of Mill Creek treated for fish passage

2,725 salmon released by *Salmon in School*



RESTORATION | EDUCATION | RECREATION

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 – Two fish passage improvements were completed in September to 2,300 feet of channel between Spokane and Park Streets, and at Roosevelt Street. Funding was secured in 2020 and 2021 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 Passage Design Assessment – Stakeholders, neighbors, and engineers worked together to assess five passage design ideas for Mill Creek at Gose St. The 2020 flood scoured the channel, creating a new passage barrier. A preferred alternative was developed to a conceptual design level. Additional design funds have been secured.

Mill Creek Passage Design – Design neared completion for the removal of the 5th Ave bridge in conjunction with passage work between 6th Ave and 3rd Ave. A pedestrian bridge will replace the aging and failing bridge with construction scheduled for 2024.

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. Phase 3 designs were completed, and partial funding for construction was secured.

Brewer Wetland

This 23-acre site has been improved with mitigation funding for impacts to regional wetlands. In 2023, site maintenance continued with a heavy emphasis on weed control.

Mottet Creek Design – In partnership with the Forest Service, design work began on this stream in the Grande Ronde watershed. A failing culvert at a crossing of the stream provides an opportunity to improve passage and habitat, while maintaining a heavily used forest road.

EDUCATION

Salmon in School: The Salmon in School program allows students a hands-on STEM learning experience through raising and releasing salmon. For the 2022-2023 school year, the program provided 21 aquariums serving over 1,200 students at schools in Walla Walla, Columbia, and Garfield counties. Students released 2,725 spring chinook into local streams.

RECREATION

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

Kids Fishing Days: 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 125 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.