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# Salmon News

## Letter from the Executive Director (Spring 2006)

Hello All,

### Welcome to Salmon News

**2006!!!** I hope you enjoy our newsletter. Looking back, LCFEG had a very busy year in 2005, including the following highlights:

In December we received only the second "10(a) 1(A) Enhancement of Survival Permit" given in the nation to restore habitat for ESA-listed species, enabling us to undertake a wide variety of restoration projects in a cost- and time-effective manner. We also completed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process that allows us to hire consultants and contractors without having to do a public bid for each project, again saving us considerable cost and

time.

LCFEG received over \$10,000.00 in donated funds from partners around the region for the organization's unrestricted use (the largest single year increase since our inception in 1991).

In April our Board developed a "Phase II" Strategic Plan setting project revenue goals through 2010, and our 2005 in-stream projects were the largest yet, all performing as designed despite a two month period of continuous bank-full discharge!!!

Our restoration techniques are now used as design templates for others with expertise requests by both private and governmental entities.

Our partnership with Larch Mountain Correctional Facility expands our project capacity while increasing regional coverage.

We now have a full-time employee running a crew and expect to hire another full-time employee as we develop the restoration work for the crew. Our donated crews are used in the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal and Bonneville Tributary Sub-Basins.

In 2005 we received funding to purchase and set up large freezers at three hatcheries, and we received funding to purchase equipment and pay staff to increase the scope of our nutrient *(Cont. on P. 3)*

### Inside this issue:

Letter from the Executive Director	1 & 3
LCFEG Announces New 2006 Project List	2
LCFEG Welcomes New Board Member, Scott Donaldson of Longview	2
Welcome Spring WSU Interns	3 & 4
LCFEG Vice President Hal Mahnke Wins Prestigious WDFW Service Award	3
2005/6 Project Partners/Landowners/Sponsors	4



## LCFEG Announces New 2006 Project List



Woodard Creek at Beacon Rock State Park

**REGION** – LCFEG recently announced its 2006 Project Schedule (below). A big thanks to our current funding sources, including the *Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)*, *Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB)*, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*, and the *Gifford Pinchot National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)*.

**Lower Cowlitz Project Development** will address high-priority data gaps identified by the LCFRB's Salmon Recovery and Fish and Wildlife Sub Basin Plans, facilitating the implementation of habitat restoration projects within the Lower Cowlitz River Basin to address sub-basin specific habitat limiting factors.

**Cispus River/Yellow Jacket Creek & Columbia Springs Channel Assessments (SRFB)** will acquire site-specific data needed to design off-channel habitat in both the Upper Cowlitz and Salmon-Washougal watersheds.

**Lockwood Creek Restoration** - Restores 2,000 lineal feet (LF) of degraded floodplain habitat and increases habitat com-

plexity through placement of in-stream large woody debris (LWD) and native riparian plantings in this Lewis River tributary, supplementing 2004 on-site restoration efforts funded by Clark Public Utilities.

**Road Decommissioning - North Fork Lewis/Muddy River** - Decommissions 1.8 miles of road along the Muddy River, thus removing or replacing 18 failing or at-risk culverts for increased fish passage and sediment delivery along the mainstem and its associated tributaries

**Woodard Creek Project Development**— Addresses high-priority data gaps within the Woodard Creek basin in conjunction with Beacon Rock State Park to identify restoration sites and possible designs for addressing specific habitat limiting factors identified for this subbasin.

**Alder Creek Fish Passage Project** - This fish passage and off-channel rearing project will restore access to one mile of tributary spawning habitat and an existing 6 acre pond in the Grays River sub-basin for use by steelhead, coho and cut-throat trout.

**Nutrient Enhancement** - A joint effort between LCFEG, Fish First & WDFW, this program maximizes to maximize the availability of marine derived nutrients in the Kalama, lower Lewis, East Fork Lewis and Washougal River sub-basins. Partners currently place over 25,000 salmon carcasses per year into local streams. Carcasses decay slowly and transfer carbon to juvenile salmon, sometimes increasing fish density by as much as 800%!!!

**Lower Goble Creek LWD/Gravel Reten-**

**tion** - Includes the construction and installation of boulder and log weirs in Goble Creek, a Coweeman River tributary, to capture gravels for use by spawning adult salmon/ steelhead and to create habitat complexity for juvenile salmon.

**Wildhorse/Gobar Creeks LWD/Gravel Retention** - Includes the construction and installation of boulder and log weirs in Wildhorse and Gobar Creeks, two Kalama River tributaries, to capture gravels for use by spawning adult salmon/ steelhead and increased habitat complexity.

**Little Washougal Riparian Restoration**— Continuation efforts begun last year, LCFEG will restore and maintain approximately 1,000 LF of stream channel and five acres of floodplain habitat by utilizing volunteers to install and maintain over 5,000 native riparian plantings.

**Carcass Analog Study** - Illustrates the importance of freshwater food to determine the rearing density of wild juvenile salmon. This year USGS & LCFEG will place carcass analogs in nutrient-deficient Lewis and Wind River watersheds and monitor the responses of algae, aquatic insects, anadromous fish, and water chemistry compared to similar streams receiving no nutrient enhancement.



## LCFEG Welcomes New Board Member, Scott Donaldson of Longview

In February LCFEG welcomed our newest Board Member, **Scott Donaldson** of Longview. A lifelong Washingtonian and Weyerhaeuser employee, Scott began trout fishing at five years old on Liberty Lake in Spokane and caught the salmon/steelhead bug during his last year of college (he's been hooked ever since). A fly fishing enthusiast, Scott was formerly Vice-President and then President of the Lower Columbia Fly Fishers (where he remains as a Board Member) and became involved with LCFEG through his work with VP Hal Mahnke on the ongoing Toutle River restoration, including fish collection and



carcass flings to promote in-stream nutrient recovery throughout that watershed.

With LCFEG Scott hopes to contribute towards improving local fish management understanding, which he feels is all-too-often portrayed in overly "technical" terms for layperson or community comprehension.

We definitely welcome Scott's friendly, down-to-earth personality and executive management skills towards increasing our leadership role in Lower Columbia community-based salmon recovery efforts.

## Letter from the Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)



enhancement efforts in the region. We used the freezers to stockpile

salmon carcasses which are now being "chipped" for use as a direct food source by wild juvenile salmon.

Our Outreach and Education Program is really beginning to take off and our projects are receiving media, public and legislative attention as a result of directed outreach efforts.

So after all of these accomplishments, what will LCFEG bring to your communities during 2006?

To begin, we hope to hire a new staff person to manage existing projects and to develop new projects for funding. This new staff person will help LCFEG develop high-priority projects in the Lower Cowlitz and Woodard Creek Sub-basins. On the Cispus River and at our facility at Columbia Springs, LCFEG is working with consultants and partners to gather data to support construction of spawning and rearing channels. These feasibility type projects will set the stage for construction in 2008.

This summer LCFEG will implement two fish passage projects, six in-stream projects, and begin restoration of a large scale off-channel rearing pond in the lower Washougal River. This will be followed by fall/winter riparian restoration on the Little Washougal River

and regional nutrient enhancement.

As these highlights show, LCFEG has come a long way and I expect our continued organizational in years ahead with all of your continued support for salmon recovery in SW WA.

Thanks for your ongoing support of community-based restoration and we look forward to serving you in 2006!!!

Sincerely,  
**Tony A. Meyer**  
Executive Director



## Welcome Spring WSU Interns

This spring LCFEG also welcomes aboard two Washington State University-Vancouver (WSU-V) Biology Major interns, **Danielle White** and **Daryl Bingham**.

Both Juniors at WSU-V, Danielle and Daryl joined LCFEG in February to work on individual internship projects through the summer and early fall for their increased comprehension of local salmon recovery activities. Danielle, a 22 year-old originally from Bellingham, WA, is interested in long-term land conservation and community education/outreach. Daryl, a U.S. Veteran and thus a bit older than your "typical" WSU-V student, is most interested in future agency work. *(Cont on p. 4)*

## LCFEG Vice President Hal Mahnke Wins Prestigious WDFW Service Award

**Hal Mahnke, LCFEG Vice-President**, was recently recognized by WDFW for his many years of volunteering to help improve fisheries in SW WA.

On November 1st, 2005, Dr. Jeff Koenings presented Hal with a plaque and a handshake, thanking him for the hundreds of hours that he has put in over the past several years in helping WDFW staff on many projects dealing with salmon and steelhead. Hal, a retired Longview Police Department captain since

1999, is also a board member of the Lower Columbia FlyFishers in Cowlitz. In addition to his role with LCFEG, Hal volunteers almost weekly on WDFW fish projects and has also assisted the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish & Game on various projects since retirement.

For the past 6.5 years Hal has helped each week at the Fish Collection Facility on the North Fork Toutle River, recording data and moving wild coho and wild winter steelhead to streams above the Sediment Retention Structure below Mt. St. Helens so they can spawn in the wild. In addition to his help at the FCF, Hal has headed up the nutrient enhancement project in the Toutle River watershed for the past 4 years. He also helps the Kalama Research Team with their weekly steelhead data collection at the Kalama Falls Hatchery.



# Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

## Office Address:

12404 SE Evergreen Hwy  
Vancouver, WA 98683

## Phone:

360-882-6671

## E-mail:

info@lcfeg.org

## Website:

[www.lcfeg.org](http://www.lcfeg.org)



## Thank You To...

### Our 2005/6 Project Partners:

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), USFS Gifford Pinchot National Forest, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USGS Columbia River Research Lab, Clark Conservation District, Cowlitz Conservation District, Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, Washington Department of Ecology, Evergreen School District, Clark Public Utilities, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, Fish First, Longview Fibre, City of Camas, Clark and Skamania Counties, Georgia-Pacific, Weyerhaeuser, WA State Parks, A&B Rock, Department of Natural Resources, WA Department of Corrections, Washington State University, Clark College

### Our 2005/6 Landowners:

Donna Eagan; Campbell Group; Stauffers Dairy; Concrete Products, Melissa Carlson; Monahan, Strunks, and Marks Families

### Our 2005/6 Corporate Sponsors:

OTAK, URS, Nutter Corp, Mike Watters Excavation

### *(WSU Interns, Cont. from p. 3)*

While Danielle and Daryl both help with various LCFEG activities, their main focus this spring will include the development of mapping and protocols for LCFEG's streambank riparian restoration sites, as well as possible utilization of a smolt trap at Larson Creek with WDFW (continuing our 2005 monitoring efforts). *Welcome aboard, Danielle & Daryl!!!*