

Restoration Lower Hamilton Creek

Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group offered grant to restore land for salmon recovery.

(Camas) – Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group was awarded a grant of \$674,200.00 from the Salmon Programs. The grant was awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), and will be used for the following:

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore a portion of lower Hamilton Creek, which is used by four lower Columbia River salmon species – Chum, Coho, Steelhead and Chinook, all of which the federal government has designated as threatened with extinction. The fish enhancement group will place logjams throughout .5 mile of the creek to create pools and a branching island network, sort spawning gravels and stabilize eroding banks. The group also will plant 5 acres of floodplain and creek bank with trees to increase shade, help stabilize the creek banks and provide a source of woody material to the creek. Finally, the fish enhancement group will restore 800 feet of Hamilton Spring Chum spawning channel and build another 400-foot groundwater-fed spawning channel parallel to the existing channel. These treatments will increase the quantity and quality of rearing and spawning habitat and bolster future production of salmon species returning to the Hamilton Creek watershed. The fish enhancement group will contribute \$120,000.00 in donations of equipment, labor and materials.

There were ninety-four applications submitted for consideration in the Salmon Program. Each project went through an evaluation process prior to being recommended for funding. The SRFB Board approved funding for projects on Friday, December 10, 2010.

Funding for the Salmon Program comes from funds administered by NOAA Fisheries. Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group will leverage local contributions totaling \$120,000.00 with grant monies to implement the project. Total estimated project cost is \$794,200.00, 85% of the project total coming from SRFB and the remaining 15% from LCFEG. SRFB is the state's administrator of the grant program.

Contact: Peter Barber, (360) 882-6671 (sponsor project manager)

Kat Moore, (360) 902-0210, Kathryn.moore@rco.wa.gov (SRFB project manager)