

Side Channel NF Lewis River

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 \$531,520.00 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 the grant to construct new side-channel habitat on the north fork of the Lewis River. Crews will excavate a nearly .5 mile-long side channel with pools, riffles and wood habitat structures. They also will improve habitat conditions in a small tributary by grading and adding large wood. Finally, crews will plant the area with native trees and shrubs. This project will create and improve important spawning, rearing and adult holding habitat for six lower Columbia River salmon populations – spring and fall Chinook, Coho, Chum, and winter and summer Steelhead, all of which the federal government has listed as threatened with extinction under the Endangered Species Act. Existing habitat has been impacted by past channel clean-outs, riverbank clearing, hydro-regulation and gravel mining in the river. The fish enhancement group will contribute \$122,060.00 in donation 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 \$122,060.00 with grant monies to implement the project. Total estimated project cost is \$653,580.00, 81% of project total to come from SRFB the remaining 19% from LCFEG. SRFB is the state's administrator of the grant program.

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