

Abstract

From June to December of 2010, I completed an internship with Pierce County Public Works Surface Water Management Department. During this time I worked with their Lead Entity Coordinator, Tom Kantz, who is the leader in salmon recovery in Watershed Resource Inventory Areas ten and twelve. These areas include the Puyallup and Clovers/Chamber Creek watersheds. My role was to primarily assist Mr. Kantz by updating the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) database.

Habitat Work Schedule

- HWS is an online database of salmon restoration projects managed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.
- The purpose of the HWS system is to help put restoration actions on the ground. By mapping projects, linking them to each other and recovery goals, and making it accessible on the web.
- During my internship, information from new salmon restoration projects in the Puyallup-White and the Chambers-Clover Creek watersheds were entered into the database, and database entries from existing projects were updated.

Maps are integral to helping the public understand where projects are being done. People want to be able to visualize where projects are/have been worked on and how close they are together and to them.

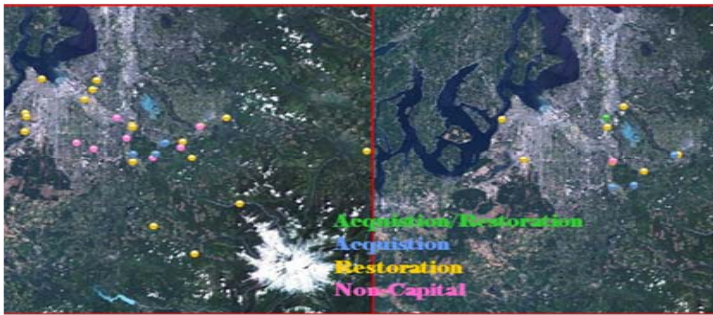


Figure 1: Maps created in HWS. Left map shows Completed projects, right map show Active.

Graphs can be used when presenting projects to future project sponsors, other lead entities, public meetings, etc. HWS uses a reporting code to gather all of the data to be graphed. Reporting codes are entered into each individual project to quantify the work that is being done.

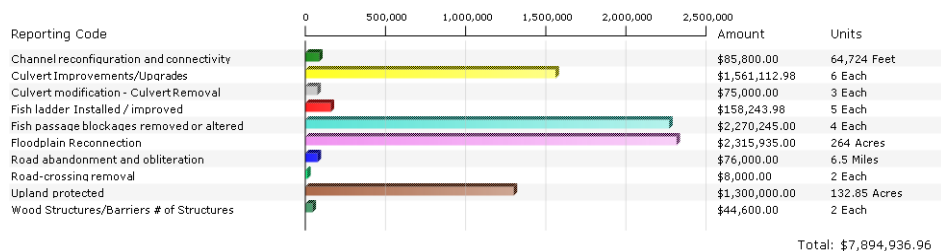


Figure 2: Graph created using HWS showing funds spent on completed projects.

Adaptive Management

The future of HWS and salmon recovery is the use of adaptive management. In 2003, the Pierce County Lead Entity developed the Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy. High priority actions are identified such as restoring natural riverine processes and protecting and restoring productive tributaries. You can see by looking at the graphs below that before this strategy was implemented most projects being done were fish passage. This included many culvert and barrier removals and fish ladder installations. Once this strategy was implemented the projects progressed towards more floodplain reconnection and tributary projects.

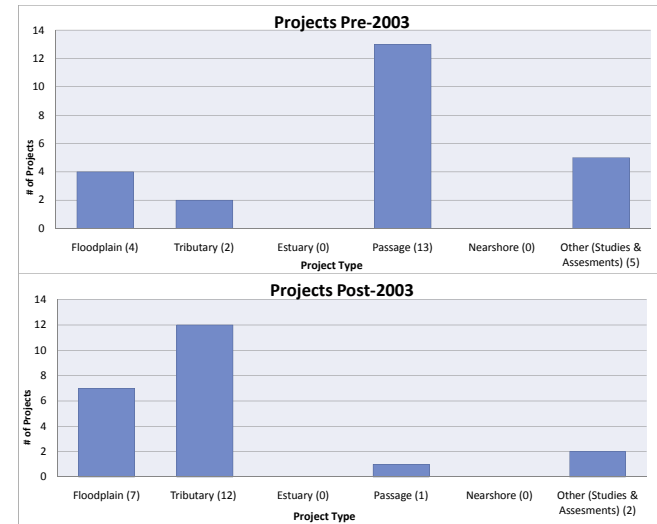


Figure 3: Types of projects done pre and post implementation of the Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy.

Conclusion

As a result of my internship, HWS is updated and in great shape. It can finally be used to its full capability in supporting salmon recovery. The tools offered on this website can benefit everyone by making it easier to track the projects being from the past, present and future.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Tom Kantz and Pierce County Surface Water Management for allowing me this opportunity to expand my knowledge on salmon and recovery efforts being done in our area.

To view Habitat Work Schedule go to:
<http://hws.ekosystem.us/>