



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Sound Salmon Solutions

ADDRESS: 1901-B Vernon Rd., Lake Stevens, WA 98258

CONTACT: (425) 252-6686; <https://www.soundsalmonsolutions.org/>

GENERAL GOALS: We believe in creating and sustaining a community devoted to salmon recovery through collaboration, engagement, education, and celebration. We believe people make lifelong connections to their watersheds through joyful meaningful work for a common cause. We believe everyone can connect and contribute to salmon recovery in their own way no matter their age, skills, interests, background, and ability.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award was used as support for operational expenses and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from Sound Salmon Solutions.

Salmon Stewards

(Q4 2015 14.2)

Final Report

Prepared For Tulalip Tribes
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Prepared by Kelly Frazee
Education & Engagement Project Coordinator
Sound Salmon Solutions
kellyf@soundsalmonsolutions.org

Sound Salmon Solutions
1901 B Vernon Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
425-252-6686
info@soundsalmonsolutions.org
www.soundsalmonsolutions.org



SOUND SALMON
SOLUTIONS

Organizational Background

Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) has been restoring salmon habitat and educating students throughout the Stillaguamish, Snohomish and Island County watersheds for over two decades. This region is home to over 800,000 people. Over the last 10 years, SSS has restored over 32 miles of river, 74 acres of riparian area, and planted over 85,000 native plants. We also educate and empower our community to make a positive impact. In this same period, we have taught over 12,000 students, and logged over 90,000 volunteer hours.

SSS is an independent nonprofit organization, one of 14 such independent organizations recognized by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife as a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEAG). Our organization was established in 1990 due to the impending listing of Puget Sound Chinook salmon populations as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. While other nonprofit organizations work on salmon habitat restoration in Washington, SSS is the only nonprofit dedicated to community-based salmon enhancement and restoration in this region. SSS consistently provides exceptional education and volunteer opportunities to engage the community.

The credibility and experience of SSS enables the organization to obtain a diverse array of funding including state, federal, local and tribal grants, donations, and partnerships with other organizations.

Salmon Stewards - Program Goals

The overarching goals of the Salmon Stewards program were as follows:

The community will...

- ...gain an awareness of water quality issues due to stormwater runoff, specifically the fact that storm drains discharge water directly to streams, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound.
- ...learn specific, personal actions they can take to improve water quality.
- ...become aware of restoration projects throughout the county and volunteer opportunities.
- ...become more engaged stewards of their local watershed.

Furthermore, the program will...

- ...help students and teachers meet Next Generation Science Standards.
- ...improve students' scientific inquiry skills.
- ...provide students with a unique opportunity to actively engage in restoration and to improve water quality, habitat and biodiversity in their local communities.
- ...inspire the next generation of watershed stewards.

Students will...

- ...plant native trees and shrubs in riparian areas.
- ...test water quality (temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and phosphates).
- ...learn about & observe benthic macroinvertebrates to further assess water quality.

These goals were met through the following actions:

Community Outreach

In January, February, and April of 2017, SSS attended four separate community events to engage participants in salmon education through a tabling display, activities, and interactions with those attending. These events included Storming the Sound, Arlington Eagle Festival, the Snohomish Conservation District Plant Sale, and the AQWA Team Earth Day event.

Classroom Programs

Three classes of fourth grade students at Fryelands Elementary in Monroe, Washington were selected as the audience for this project. On February 8th and 9th, 2017, SSS staff engaged the three classes of students in 2.5 hour erosion modeling lessons as preparation for their service learning field trip. Students investigated the question, “How does the presence of trees affect erosion?” through building models of landscapes with and without trees, and tested the amount of erosion for each scenario. Erosion modeling directly connects to the NGSS 4th grade Earth’s Systems Performance Expectations.

Service Learning

On March 16th, 2017, Fryelands Elementary students joined SSS educators and habitat restoration crew at Stillwater Natural Area for service learning planting and a lesson on water quality in relation to salmon survival and how humans contribute to, or impact, water quality health. During this time students planted 250 trees in an active restoration site along the Snoqualmie River.

Program Outcomes

Total number of students engaged: 85, with a classroom and a field lesson each
Total number of teachers/chaperones engaged: 12
Total number of science hours per student: 4
Total number of trees planted: 250
Total number of community events attended: 4
Total number of community members engaged at events: 135

*Note: these program goals were for the requested \$6,000, and \$3,160 was granted, so actual deliverables were amended to reflect the adjustment.

Specific Successes and/or Challenges

This project was full of successes. Each participant in the Salmon Stewards program learned tangible actions to help improve water quality (picking up pet waste, washing car at an established car wash, and using less or no fertilizer). During the service learning field trip, parent chaperones were as engaged as the students, excited and intrigued by the results of the water quality tests and discussing what they do in their personal lives that could affect water quality. The classroom

teachers relayed that they were pleased by the connections to NGSS, both in the classroom, and in the field. Our only challenge with this project was scheduling with teachers, resulting in us filing an extension for project to find mutually agreeable service learning dates. While we schedule with teachers far in advance (often before the school year begins), unanticipated classroom conflicts still may occur.

If applicable, what other funding sources were leveraged to support this program?

Funding was leveraged through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) for program supplies as well as school bus reimbursement for students to join us for lessons. The service learning field trip occurred at Stillwater Natural Area, and funding from the State of Washington Department of Ecology was leveraged to provide the trees planted.

Conclusion

With the generous support from the Tulalip Tribes, SSS was able to actively reach out into the community to raise awareness about water quality issues and how their everyday actions affect water quality. This project enabled students, their teachers, and their chaperones to make a hands-on contribution to habitat restoration. Without these crucial funds, community engagement like this would otherwise not be able to take place, so we thank you for the opportunity to do this work. The impact from the Salmon Stewards program is clear and is demonstrated in the numbers. SSS hopes to continue this program and partnership with the Tulalip Tribes in the future.

Lesson Photos



(Above) The outreach display and macroinvertebrate activity for the AQWA Earth Day event.



Students from Fryelands Elementary test the amount of turbidity in their water sample. Due to flooding this month, they found very turbid water and were able to discuss how the flooding affected their water quality testing.



Students from Fryelands Elementary learn about the connection between the amount of dissolved oxygen, phosphates, and turbidity in the water and how those related to river health.