



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Sound Salmon Solutions**

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**Organization's General Goals:**  
Since 1990, Sound Salmon Solutions has supported salmon recovery in the Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and South Island County watersheds by connecting people to their watersheds through interactive education, hands-on stewardship and state-of-the-art habitat restoration.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2018 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

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

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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# WCSWEC Classroom Enhancement (Q2 2018 14.2) Final Report

Tulalip Cares  
October 7, 2019

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**SOUND SALMON**  
SOLUTIONS

## Organizational Background

In 1990 the Washington State Legislature chartered nonprofit organizations called Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) to promote, support, and realize salmon recovery programs and projects in our watersheds. Sound Salmon Solutions (originally known as the Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is one of 14 RFEs in the state. For 29 years we have supported salmon recovery in Washington by connecting people to their watersheds through interactive education, hands-on stewardship and state-of-the-art habitat restoration. The mission of Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) is to connect you with our watersheds for the future of salmon. We work to achieve this through education, habitat, and volunteer programs that:

- Support and enhance natural salmon populations through direct habitat restoration
- Empower communities to be stewards of their watersheds by providing education and volunteer opportunities
- Partner with other groups and agencies to maximize salmon recovery
- Advocate for salmon recovery in our region

SSS has three integrated programs: habitat restoration to improve salmonid habitat quality, quantity, and diversity; education to provide engaging experiences for students in the classroom and field about water quality, salmon, and ecology and for our communities through public engagement; and stewardship opportunities to engage community members in the restoration of riparian habitat. At SSS, we believe everyone can connect and contribute to salmon recovery in their own way no matter their age, skills, interests, background, and ability. In 2018, SSS installed 17,003 plants, engaged 3,103 youth participants in science education, and supported 839 volunteers who gave 2,297 hours of service.

## Classroom Enhancement - Outcomes & Impacts

Funding from Tulalip Cares was sought in order to support updating our Willow Creek Salmon and Watershed Education Center (WCSWEC) classroom; a community learning and engagement space that has been in use since 1985. The facility, as it is over 30 years old, lacked updates in classroom infrastructure as well as technology. Sound Salmon Solutions utilized this Tulalip Cares funding to purchase new tables and chairs to create a comfortable learning space, as well as three new whiteboards, Audio/Visual (A/V) updates, and a watershed model to generate an extra engaging educational space.

Chairs for WCSWEC Classroom		██████
3 Dry Erase Boards at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
Monitor & Speakers for computer at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
Computer at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
EnviroScapes Model at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
Projector screen at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
Projector at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
AV Cart for Computer & Projector at WCSWEC Classroom		██████
	<b>Total</b>	██████
	<b>Amount awarded by Tulalip Cares</b>	██████
	<b>Organizational Match/WCSWEC Supplies</b>	██████

Figure 1. Classroom improvements supported by Tulalip Cares funding.

### ***The Updates and Resulting Benefits***

The generous funding from Tulalip Cares allowed Sound Salmon Solutions to purchase a projector, projection screen, AV cart, monitor with speakers, and a computer. This up-to-date technology allows comfortable access for guest speakers, as well as new opportunities for educational tools such as videos, PowerPoints, and informational games such as salmon jeopardy. One of our frequent facility users, Pilchuck Audubon, holds educational classes covering actions citizens can take to minimize environmental impact as well as how to make a difference for local wildlife in their own backyard. This non-profit group boasts about the enhanced space and the added dimension to their classes the technology has provided. Furthermore, the technology provided a new space for another non-profit, the Edmonds Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers, to hold their board meetings. The WCSEC classroom has provided program space for the last 30 years, but the space is now more effective learning environment and has less restrictions to the kind of programs it can support.

One of the main events at the WCSWEC are the Salmon in Schools field trips. After raising salmon in their classroom from the egg stage to the fry stage, students take a field trip to release their salmon back into the wild. The students from Edmonds School District visit the WCSWEC for a 2-hour field trip. This outdoor education experience includes a macroinvertebrate station, a salmon life-cycle station, a hatchery tour and salmon release station, and a watershed model station. In the spring of 2019, the WCSWEC engaged a total of 6 Edmonds School District schools, totaling 445 students! The improved technology allowed the life-cycle station to project catchy songs to help the students remember the life stages, as well as a presentation demonstrating each life stage of the salmon. The updated facility created a comfortable learning space for the students, one they looked forward to as an escape from the chilly spring days.

Not only did the funds from Tulalip Cares provide a completely renewed learning and collaboration space, but it also allowed Sound Salmon Solutions to purchase an EnviroScapes Watershed Model. This interactive model demonstrates the impacts of pollution and urbanization on the ecosystems we live in. Students collaborate to add representations of impacts, such as dog poop (brown sprinkles), factory waste (chocolate sludge), sediment erosion from compaction and urbanization (coco powder), fertilizer (red Kool-Aid water), and herbicides (green Kool-Aid water). After the impacts are added, students take turn adding water from a spray bottle to the model, representing rain. Students are able to track the flow of water through the watershed, and discover the resulting impact on the water. This model reveals the harsh impacts humans can have, but also how the students can minimize their impacts. This model was added to our hatchery field trips, and the teachers responded with overwhelming positivity.

#### **Enviroscapes Watershed Model Teacher Feedback:**

“This was one of my student’s favorite stations, and it helped to tie in other science curriculum related to 4<sup>th</sup> grade (as we study land and water). Please keep the model, great addition!!”

“This was a very cool, hands-on model that helps give student’s a concrete idea about what a watershed is and how it can be affected by many areas.”

“It was really cool and I loved how it showed how we (people) directly affect our water and, in turn, salmon.”

### **Conclusion**

Through the support of the Tulalip Tribes, Sound Salmon Solutions was able to improve the WCSWEC classroom. This funding completely transformed the facility, updating the technology, adding tools to the

learning space, and enhancing the seating to ensure comfort. The impacts of these enrichments are priceless; students and volunteers have access to numerous opportunities through these improvements which were not attainable without funding. This year to date, 455 students and 120 adults have used the new facility. The WCSWEC facility has become the perfect setting for growth and excitement about environmental education. Thank you for this opportunity!

**Pictures of the Enhanced Classroom and EnviroScapes Watershed Model:**



*The new hatchery classroom set up, taken just before Edmonds School District hatchery field trips.*





*The Envirosapes watershed model set up and ready for student engagement!*



*4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Edmonds School District using their hands to learn about human impacts on watersheds.*