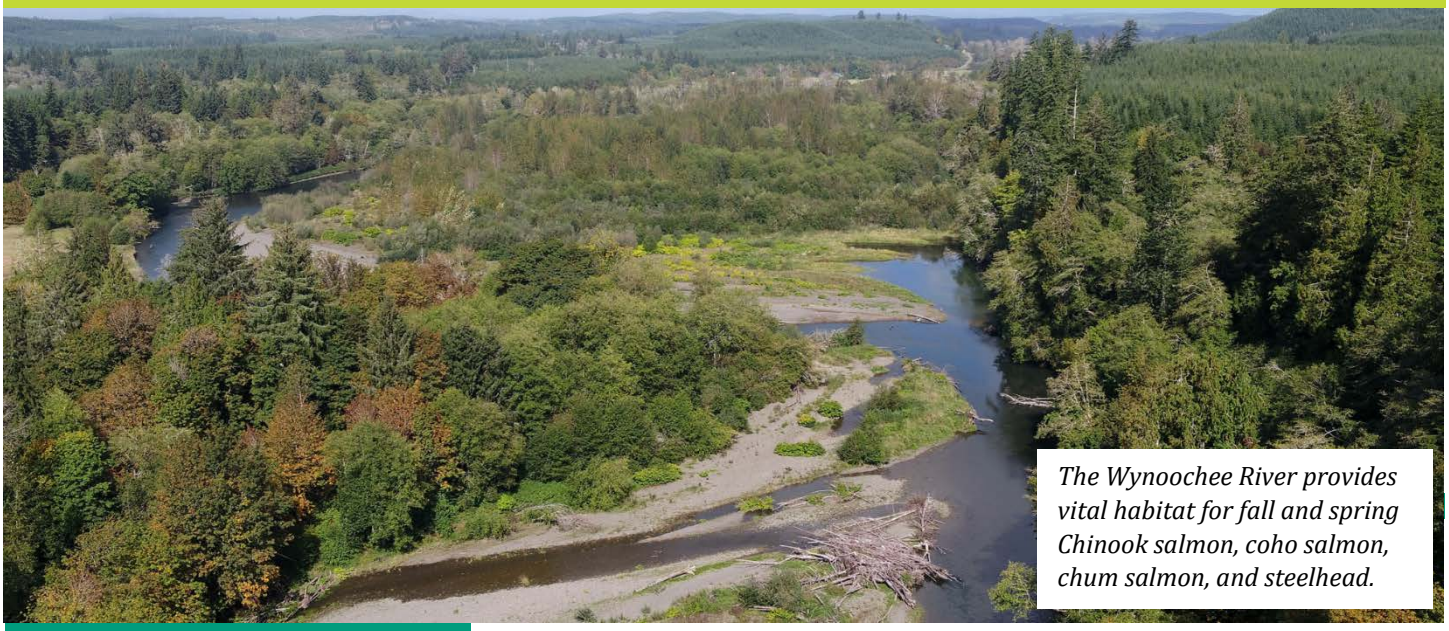
# Wynoochee River Restoration



*The Wynoochee River provides vital habitat for fall and spring Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, and steelhead.*

## Project Highlights

- **1 home relocated**
- **4 partnerships** with local landowners
- **1.25 miles restored** of river habitat
- **26 acres protected** for riparian and floodplain habitat
- **63 log jams installed**
- **116 acres treated** for invasive plants
- **14 acres planted** including **30,000+ native plantings**

## Protecting Chehalis Basin habitats through collaboration and community

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working with community partners to initiate several habitat restoration pilot projects in the Chehalis River Basin referred to as **Early Action Reach projects**.

These projects are part of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP), a science-based plan designed to restore, rebuild, and protect the Chehalis River Basin to support a productive ecosystem that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

**Each of the WDFW-sponsored river restoration projects includes:**

- Installing native trees and shrubs;
- Removing invasive species such as blackberry and knotweed;
- Constructing engineered log jams; and
- Reconnecting floodplain and off-channel habitats


*Map: Chehalis River Basin in Southwest Washington*

**Early Action Reach Projects**
As shown on map to the left, WDFW is sponsoring habitat projects on the Skookumchuck, Wynoochee, Satsop, and on Stillman Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Chehalis River.

Funding is provided by the Washington State Legislature through the Department of Ecology's Office of Chehalis Basin.

## Contact

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## Coordination is key to habitat restoration

The Wynoochee River Restoration Project started construction in summer 2021 and is scheduled for completion in summer 2022. WDFW collaborated with Grays Harbor Conservation District, Forterra, and landowners to make this project a success.

**Grays Harbor Conservation District** is a key partner in landowner communications, house relocation, and floodplain restoration for this project. Along with being the project lead for the house relocation, they are installing over 30,000 new plantings which will grow into a mature riparian forest that provides shade, insects, nutrients, and woody material habitat for fish and wildlife.

**Forterra** worked with a local landowner to permanently conserve 26 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat. This landowner had been experiencing extreme flooding, resulting in restricted access and damage to their property. In conjunction with acquisition, the home was relocated to higher ground, allowing for more floodplain restoration. This created an opportunity for a mutually beneficial project benefiting the landowner and aquatic species.

*The house relocation (above, left) was a key element in the collaboration between a landowner and project partners. Engineered log jams (above, right) are an important habitat component for the Wynoochee River Restoration Project.*

Engineered log jams help create slower and faster water in different areas to scour deep pools and deposit gravel, providing habitat for fish and other aquatic species. Juvenile salmon use pools, riffles, and off-channel habitats to feed, grow, and find refuge during floods. Large wood helps form these habitats for juvenile salmon, can slow erosion, and is also an important part of a healthy river system.

## Being a good neighbor

We work with agricultural landowners to minimize impacts on their working lands in the timing and location of project construction.

## Get involved

Visit the Chehalis Basin Strategy website to learn how people are working together to reduce flood damage and restore salmon habitat.

ChehalisBasinStrategy.com

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).