

Voluntary, watershed-based effort leads to increased salmon runs

Then: During the 1990s, spring chinook salmon runs reached record lows in the Tucannon River, a tributary to the Columbia River. The total run-size in 1995 was just 54 fish.

Late 1990s: **Columbia Conservation District** and several partners began journey to improve salmon habitat in Tucannon River...

Completed **watershed assessment** that found threats to salmon, including lethally warm water, sometimes over 80° F.

Worked with landowners to find **voluntary solutions** that addressed landowner needs, resource concerns, and salmon habitat.



Installed **instream structures** to enhance habitat diversity and complexity.

Enrolled landowners in **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** and other programs that incentivize streamside tree plantings, habitat restoration, and irrigation efficiency.



Now:

 Trees have grown and shade the river.

 Summer water temperatures dropped over 10 degrees F.

 Young salmon use 20 miles of river that had been too warm.

 Spring chinook runs are among the highest in 30 years. The total run-size in 2015 was 1,777 fish.

 Several partners contributed to the success of voluntary efforts in the Tucannon River, including public and private landowners, Bonneville Power Administration, Snake River Salmon Recovery Office, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Washington State Conservation Commission.

