

Salmon & Eagle Connection

Skagit Salmon

The Skagit River is home to six species of salmon and seagoing trout. They are generally silver in the ocean phase, but their spawning colors are distinctive.



CHINOOK SALMON

Sometimes called kings, are olive-brown with dark spots. Males are darker than females. *Spawn Aug-Oct*



COHO SALMON

Also known as silvers, are generally silver with lower body changing to red, especially in males. *Spawn Oct-Jan*



PINK SALMON

Nick-named humpies, males develop a distinct dorsal hump. Color changes to pale red mixed with olive-brown blotches. *Spawn Sept-Oct*



SOCKEYE SALMON

Bright red, especially the males, with a greenish olive head. *Spawn Aug-Nov*



CHUM SALMON

Often called dog salmon, are dark olive on top. Sides are pale red sides mixed with olive-green blotches. *Spawn Nov-Jan*



STEELHEAD TROUT

Anadromous rainbow trout, are silver with a faint red lateral band that becomes more prominent as the body darkens. *Spawn Feb-June*

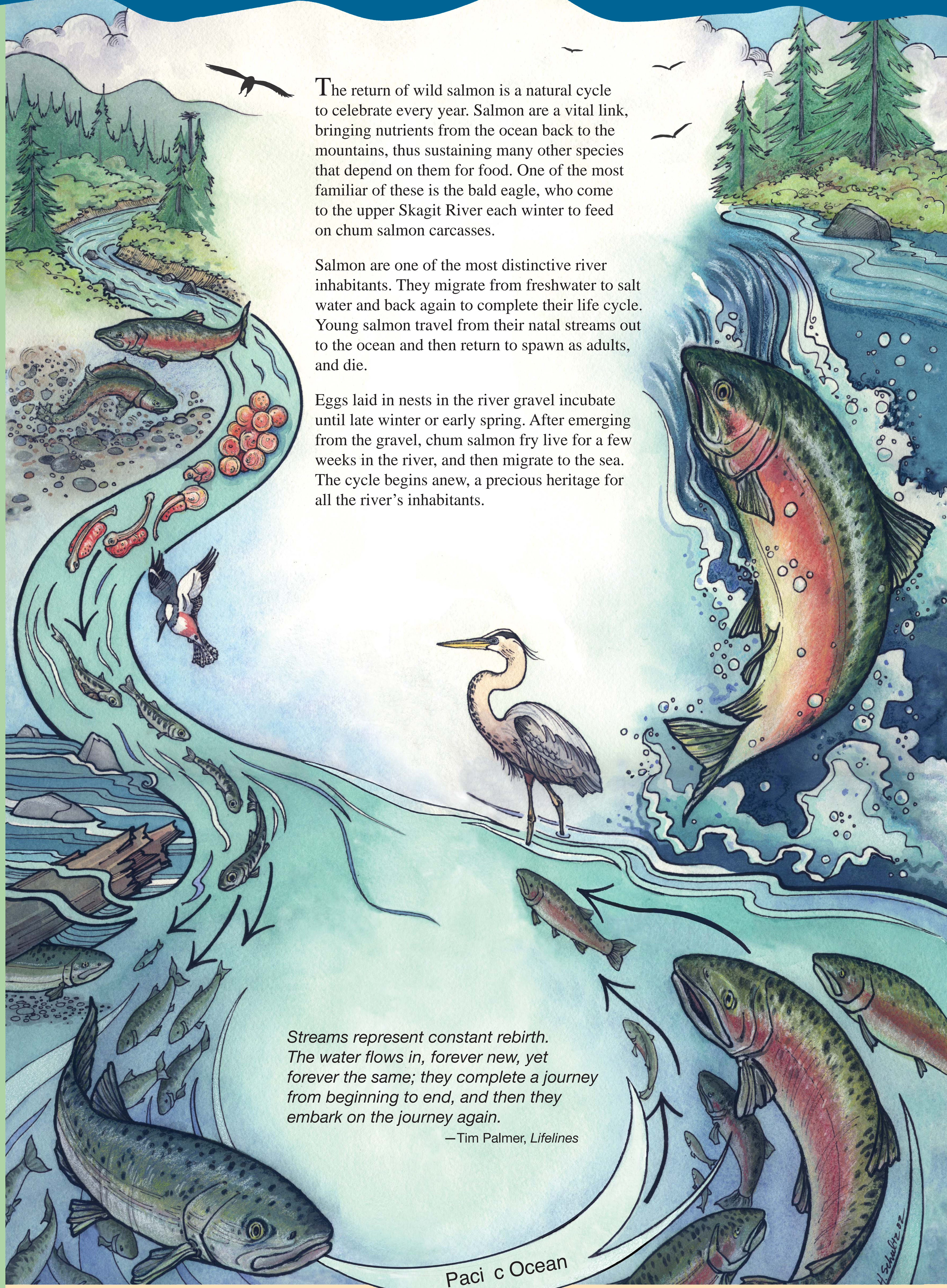
The return of wild salmon is a natural cycle to celebrate every year. Salmon are a vital link, bringing nutrients from the ocean back to the mountains, thus sustaining many other species that depend on them for food. One of the most familiar of these is the bald eagle, who come to the upper Skagit River each winter to feed on chum salmon carcasses.

Salmon are one of the most distinctive river inhabitants. They migrate from freshwater to salt water and back again to complete their life cycle. Young salmon travel from their natal streams out to the ocean and then return to spawn as adults, and die.

Eggs laid in nests in the river gravel incubate until late winter or early spring. After emerging from the gravel, chum salmon fry live for a few weeks in the river, and then migrate to the sea. The cycle begins anew, a precious heritage for all the river's inhabitants.

Streams represent constant rebirth. The water flows in, forever new, yet forever the same; they complete a journey from beginning to end, and then they embark on the journey again.

—Tim Palmer, *Lifelines*



SKAGIT WILD & SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest