



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

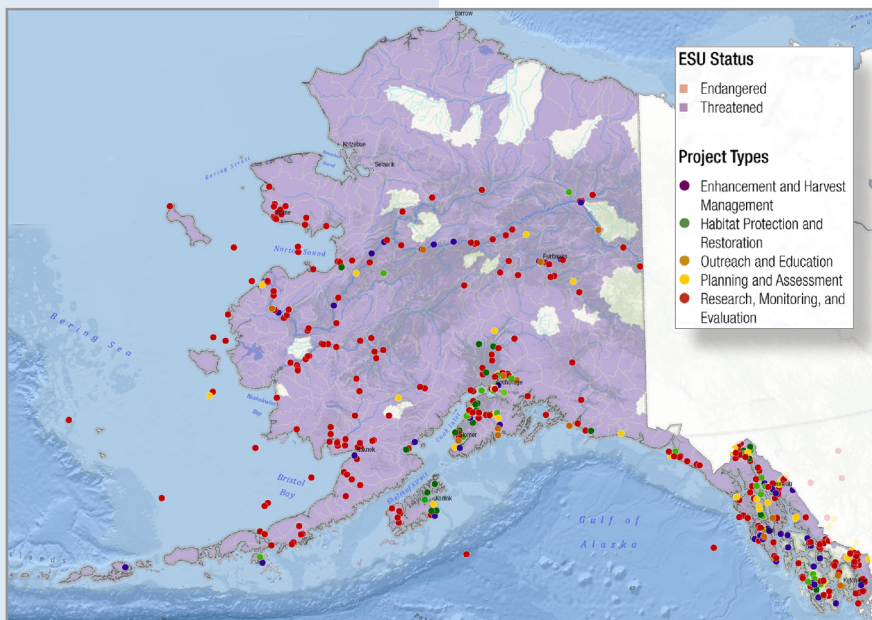
The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund advances the protection, restoration, and conservation of Pacific salmon and their habitats. The program also plays a vital role in supporting the economies of local communities from California to Alaska, upholding Tribal Treaty fishing rights and subsistence fishing traditions, and restoring salmon populations to productive and viable levels along the entire West Coast.

Economic Benefits of Salmon Restoration in Alaska

Pacific salmon and steelhead are much more than essential elements of a healthy Pacific Coast ecosystem; they are cultural icons woven into the fabric of local communities and economies. Salmon runs tie the region's people to the landscape, but pressures from a changing environment and human activities have compromised the strength of these runs. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in 2000 to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead, supporting conservation efforts in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Nevada. The program is essential to preventing the extinction of threatened and endangered populations and, in many cases, has stabilized the populations and contributed to their recovery course.

A \$1 million investment in watershed restoration, of which PCSRF funding plays a significant role, results in 15 new or sustained jobs and \$1.86 million in total economic activity.

Over the past 11 years, PCSRF catalyzed the development of a vibrant community of salmon restoration experts and fostered indispensable partnerships among land owners, local governments, and state, tribal and Federal agencies. The collaborative nature and strong scientific foundation of PCSRF restoration efforts ensures that funds are effectively and efficiently benefiting salmon populations and their habitats.



PCSRF restoration projects in Alaska

NOAA Fisheries, the agency charged with administering PCSRF's competitive grants process, has awarded states and tribes an average of \$73 million annually since the program's inception. The program has also leveraged nearly \$563 million in total matching state funds. These investments have significant impacts on local economies and support local job development. A \$1 million investment in watershed restoration, of which PCSRF funding plays a significant role, results in 15 new or sustained jobs and \$1.86 million in total economic activity (Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley 2009).

Every dollar invested in salmon restoration travels through the economy in several ways: Restoration project managers hire consultants,



Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

contractors, and employees to design, implement, and maintain projects; consultants and contractors hire field crews, rent or purchase equipment, and buy goods and services; and employees spend wages on goods and services to support their livelihoods in their own community (Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley 2009).

With this funding and these jobs, states and tribes have undertaken over 10,200 projects, resulting in significant changes in salmon habitat conditions and availability. Since 2000, access to over 879,000 acres of spawning and rearing habitat has been restored and protected for salmon and now they can migrate through 5,300 miles of previously inaccessible streams. The program has also established robust planning and monitoring programs to support prioritization and tracking for salmon and steel-head population conservation.

In Alaska alone, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has received over \$197 million in PCSRF funds with an additional \$53 million in state matching funds.



Restoration workshop at Wasilla Creek

Wasilla Creek after restoration



Alaska State Performance Measures FY 2000-2010		
Output	Indicator	Completed
Instream Habitat Projects	Stream Miles Treated	4
Wetland Habitat Projects	Acres Created	--
	Acres Treated	3,992
Estuarine Habitat Projects	Acres Created	--
	Acres Treated	12
Land Acquisition Projects	Acres Acquired or Protected	75,120
	Stream Bank Miles Acquired or Protected	--
Riparian Habitat Projects	Stream Miles Treated	6
	Acres Treated	117
Upland Habitat Projects	Acres Treated	.6
Fish Passage Projects	Number of Barriers Removed	352
	Stream Miles Opened	102
	Number of Fish Screens Installed	--
Monitoring Projects	Stream Miles Monitored	46,404

These funds have supported the implementation of over 900 projects and the restoration of 4,100 acres of habitat since 2000. For example, with PCSRF dollars the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund supports the Alaska Cost Share Program, a program designed to achieve conservation and restoration of salmon habitat. Through partnerships with private landowners, watershed groups, and governmental entities, the program has rehabilitated and enhanced salmon habitat at over 130 sites across Alaska. Restoration work at 100 additional sites is planned for the next three years. Approaches vary from site to site, but typically consist of removing detrimental structures, stabilizing banks, minimizing erosion, re-vegetating with native plants, and protecting the site from future impacts. Public outreach and landowner involvement are essential to the program's success because project participants often share their new-found knowledge of salmon habitat with neighbors and friends, leading to improved stewardship and additional opportunities for habitat restoration.

PCSRF's role in restoring the region's salmon runs to healthy, viable levels is critical but just as important is the program's role in supporting the economies of local communities, like those participating in the Alaska Cost Share Program, where salmon are integral to the cultural landscape.