Lower Columbia IMW

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Washington State

Conservation

Commission











Take Home Message

If you:

Target **LIMITING FACTORS** in density dependent populations, AND

Implement spatially EXTENSIVE, and INTENSIVE projects, THEN

You've given your project the best chance at **HELP**ing **SALMON...**

BUT it takes **TIME**.









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20 years of fish monitoring data suggests habitat is limiting population productivity





Fork Length (m)



Substantial restoration in Abernathy Creek, 2012-2021



33% of accessible habitat treated (12km of 36km)
13 completed projects, Primarily wood additions
1.7 miles of improved fish passage
37 acres riparian habitat restored
0.8 miles of new off/side channel habitat



IMW Results: Wood Placement that Works

- Must address limiting factors.
- Must be extensive.
- Must be intensive (and/or repeated).

Extensive Treatments

Asotin: 39% of study area (~4.7 structures/100m)

Lower Columbia: 30-35% of anadromous stream miles

Pudding Creek: 80% of watershed treated, 12.1km (n=438 pieces)





Pudding Creek Wood Figures



Data from Okun, 2021























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Materials are Key

Proximity is Critical







Efficient, whole watershed approach













Have fish responded to the restoration?

Coho rearing capacity and maximum smolt output has increased following restoration efforts.



Trends indicate better parr-to-smolt survival following wood additions





Survi

arr-to-Smolt

Following wood additions, coho smolt abundance is showing positive response



Abernathy steelhead smolt abundance is up compared to other basins



STEELHEAD SMOLTS

How is this information is being used for salmon recovery in the Lower Columbia region?

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The regional entity overseeing restoration project funding will prioritize extensive and intensive restoration projects. Regional restoration practitioners plan to emphasize increasing rearing habitat capacity as a recovery strategy for coho salmon

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QUESTIONS

