

Skagit River Tidings

Sept 2026



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL



**SKAGIT
WATERSHED
COUNCIL**
A Community Partnership for Salmon



Skagit Watershed Council

skagitwatershed.org

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Inside This Issue

Letter from the Executive Director1

Staff & Board of Directors2

Board Member Spotlight3

Our Lead Entity Committees4

2026 Grant Round Debrief5

SWC Project Updates7

We Love You, Scottie!.....10

“What We Leave for Gilligan”11

Island Unit Estuary Restoration Project13

Annual Financial Report15

Committee Rosters18

Thank Yous19

Member Organizations20



Letter from the Executive Director

September 2026



A warm hello to you all!

As summer winds down, we at the Skagit Watershed Council are happy to celebrate another great year with you. The 2025-2026 funding year marked our best grant income year yet. We have diversified our funding sources and taken on some new collaborative projects. We are working with the other three Lead Entities in the Whidbey Basin-- Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and Island County--to improve our data systems for tracking restoration project metrics. We are also collaborating with Skagit partners, the Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Conservation District, and Skagit River System Cooperative to improve our ability to implement riparian restoration projects basin-wide.

Here's the biggest news: It is the end of an era at the Watershed Council. After 28 years of being the rock of the organization, Scottie Schneider has retired. See her parting interview on page 10. Alma Herrera-Sanchez is taking on Scottie's role as Office Manager. She has a flair for systems and is a fast learner. We welcome her enthusiastically.

During the year, we also hired a new Communications Coordinator, Elle (pronounced Ellie) England who is rocking the community engagement scene! We are reaching people in new ways and expanding our following. Check out her report! Elle has an amazing breadth of skills and experience, including flying drones.

Megan facilitated another successful grant round (her second) with skill and grace. Her thoroughness is a great asset to that complex work. We recommended 9 projects for funding. See Megan's report with all the deets.

You may remember we elected a new Board member from the U.S. Forest Service at our last Annual Lunch. Dan Kipervaser is attending our Annual Lunch in person this year! He lives in Arizona though his work beat is Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Make sure you say hello to him in person if are attending the lunch!

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all the dedicated committee members and Member Organizations that drive the work we do. Your passion and commitment to bringing back salmon brings me such hope and joy!

With Love and Appreciation,
Aundrea

Who We Are

A community partnership for salmon, the Skagit Watershed Council (SWC) is a 501 (c)(3) public nonprofit that convenes a community of stakeholders, advocates, and co-managers to support sustainable fisheries in the Skagit and Samish Watersheds. Local governments, tribal nations, conservation groups, landowners, businesses, and concerned citizens work together to provide thoughtful guidance and collective wisdom. Expert-led committees like the Technical Work Group and Skagit Science Committee ensure decisions are grounded in science, transparency, and integrity.

Since our founding in 1997, we have built consensus around effective approaches and strategies for community-led voluntary habitat restoration and protection. Our work is based on the best available science and on policies established by fisheries co-managers. We build an informed constituency for salmon restoration by educating the community about salmon issues and bringing people together for community events that celebrate our beautiful Skagit River and the food it provides. In 1998, SWC was chosen by all the tribal and local governments within our watershed to be the Skagit Lead Entity, which reviews and ranks restoration projects for state funding.

Staff



Megan Corbiere
Watershed Coordinator



Elle England
Communications Coordinator



Alma Herrera-Sanchez
Office Manager

Board of Directors

John Stein, Chair, RiverSong Farm

Brendan Brokes, Secretary/Treasurer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Alison Studley, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Andrew Bearlin, Seattle City Light

Daniel Kipervaser, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Devin Smith, Skagit River System Cooperative

Emmett Wild, Skagit Conservation District

Michael Kirshenbaum, Skagit Land Trust



Board Member Spotlight

Daniel Kipervaser is the newest member of the Skagit Watershed Council Board of Directors, having been elected at our 2025 Annual Meeting. Dan serves as the Shared Stewardship and Strategic Operations Coordinator for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, a unique position focused on advancing partnerships that help increase the pace and scale of restoration.



Dan's extensive experience collaborating with organizations to improve environmental stewardship makes him a natural fit for our community partnership for salmon. One of the aspects he enjoys most about his role with the Forest Service is finding ways to streamline government processes so that, in his words, he can "make life easier for good folks who want to do good things for public lands."

A love of the great outdoors has guided Dan's path from an early age. He says forests have always been his happy place, and a childhood of camping and canoeing in Florida rivers and the Everglades helped inspire his passion for the natural world. By middle school, he was already certain he wanted a career stewarding our natural environment. This passion led him to pursue advanced degrees in biology, environmental policy, and ecology.

Dan joined the SWC Board because it aligns with the Forest Service's duty to steward the land and serve the people who depend on it. Looking to the future of the Skagit Watershed, he says, "There's nothing I love more than being part of a dedicated and energized team. I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues on the board to help ensure that healthy and resilient salmon populations are a part of the Skagit Watershed's future."

On a board full of fish-focused folks, Dan brings a unique perspective that has broadened our view of communication possibilities. We're so grateful to have his expertise and dedication to stewardship on our team, and we're excited to see what we can accomplish together!

Our Lead Entity Committees

2026 Grant Round

Technical Review Committee

Back row left to right: Matthew Colston, WA State Department of Ecology - Allison Hutchens, Skagit Conservation District - Tholen Blasko, Puget Sound Energy - Yuki Reiss, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group - Alex Richard, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Colin Wahl, Skagit River System Cooperative

Front row left to right: Jessica Lange, Skagit Land Trust - Emily Derenne, Skagit County

Not pictured: Jeff Fisher, Seattle City Light - Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy - Rick Hartson, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe



"I'm inspired by the technical expertise of my peers in the TRC, and the genuine care and commitment on everyone's part to help guide the direction of salmon recovery in this beautiful and critically important part of the world" - Tholen Blasko, TRC member



Lead Entity Citizens Committee

Back row left to right: Andy Haas, Seattle City Light - Camden Bruner, USFS - Emmett Wild, Skagit Conservation District - Mark Knutzen, retired farmer - Michael Kirshenbaum, Skagit Land Trust

Front row left to right: Pat Stevenson, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (alternate for Alison Studley) - John Stein, landowner & fisheries expert - Devin Smith, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe (alternate for Scott Morris) - Heather Spore, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community - Amy Fenlon, Wildcat Steelhead Club

Not pictured: Scott Morris, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe - Brian Lanouette, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe - Jonah Keith, Town of La Conner - Brendan Brokes, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

"As a fisherman, I want to contribute to salmon restoration so that future generations have the opportunity to engage in the excitement of fishing" - Amy Fenlon, LECC member

2026 Grant Round Debrief

Megan Corbiere

This year's grant round began in February with the release of the Request for Proposals. Sponsors submitted nine project applications, which were reviewed throughout the process by the Technical Review Committee (TRC), Lead Entity Citizens Committee (LECC) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Review Panel. Two projects were also reviewed by Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) as part of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital program (PSAR Large Cap) process. In May, site visits drew about 35 participants, including committee members, the SRFB review panel members, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant managers, PSP's Salmon Recovery Manager and Director of Tribal Relations, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff, project sponsors, and a film crew working on a SWC video. Project applications were presented at the Council of Members meeting in June.

In July, the TRC scored the projects on their technical merits, bringing the results to the final LECC meetings, where the committee produced this year's ranked project list (below). Technical merit is based on criteria derived from the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan and defined in our Strategic Approach.

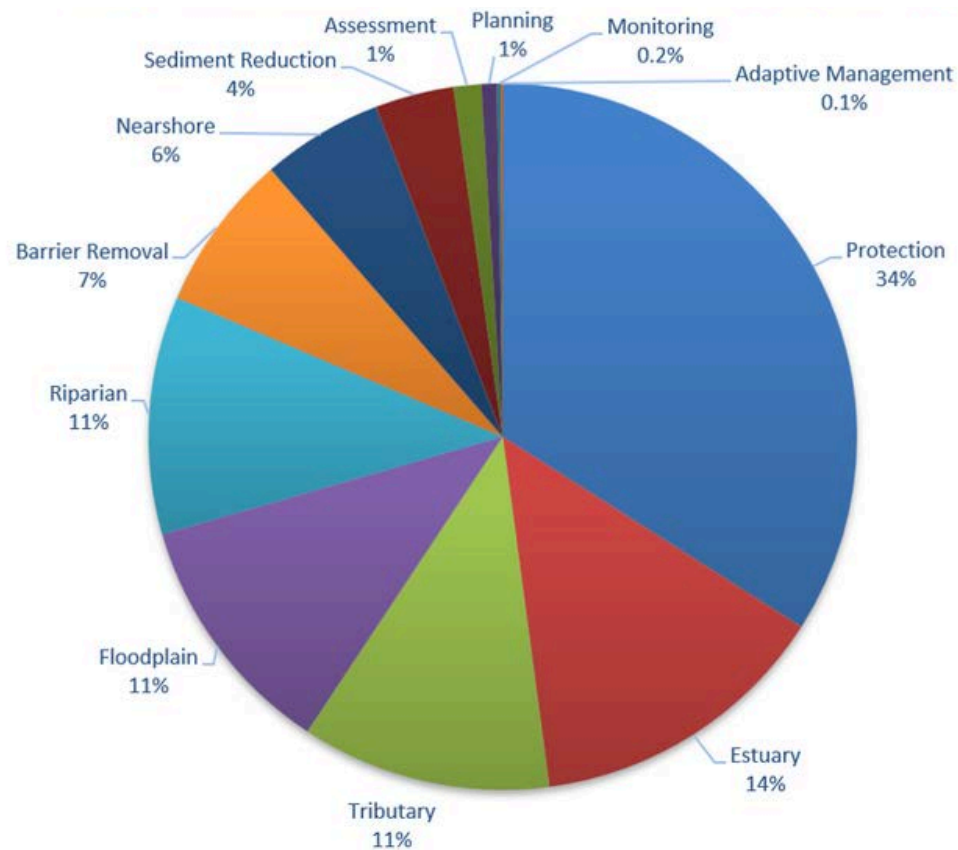


Notes on the deliberations of the TRC and LECC are available on our website. A detailed explanation of the Lead Entity process and project scoring is available in our Operating Procedures for the Lead Entity Program as well as the Program Guide, also on our website.

Rank	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Award
NR	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition - SCL	Seattle City Light	\$1,000,000
NR	2026 Riparian Set Aside Ongoing Maintenance	Skagit River System Cooperative	\$154,500
1	IMW Smokehouse Tidal Marsh Restoration and Construction	Skagit River System Cooperative	
2	Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration Design	Skagit County	\$240,638
3	IMW Similk Estuary Restoration Phase 3	Skagit River System Cooperative	\$2,174,908
4	SCL Acquisition and Restoration	Seattle City Light	\$280,000
5	2026 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition - SLT	Skagit Land Trust	\$750,000
6	Lower Day Slough Culvert GN31 Construction	Skagit County	\$174,268
7	Hart Slough Restoration Conceptual Design	Skagit County	\$304,000
8	Cumberland Riparian and Floodplain Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	\$150,000
Total			\$5,228,314

Since 2000, completed and active SRFB-funded projects in the Skagit Watershed have addressed restoration on approximately 2,890 acres of floodplain, estuary, and other habitats and protected more than 2,600 acres of floodplain habitat. Since 2000, our collaborative work and recommendations have brought more than \$81 million in project dollars to the Skagit, funding over 200 projects. See the graph below for what types of projects have been funded.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds allocated through the Skagit Lead Entity from 2000 to 2025 by Project Type



SWC Project Updates

Aundrea McBride, Megan Corbiere & Elle England

PSRSL

The **Puget Sound Riparian Systems Lead** (PSRSL) is a \$1.3 million grant over 4 years to improve our ability to address climate change impacts to riparian restoration projects. SWC has partnered with riparian restoration practitioners (the Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Conservation District, and Skagit River System Cooperative) to assemble a basin-wide riparian strategy. The strategy will identify potential future restoration sites, create a landowner outreach plan, build climate-adapted plant stocks, test climate adapted methods for planting, and provide funding for riparian restoration and stewardship.

This project began in earnest in February of 2026. Practitioners have completed cultural reviews and planting plans for stewardship sites. Some have started on-the-ground work. The sites are small in scope and many are novel in their objectives, for example, stewarding old sites that need follow up care not typically fundable. Native, climate adapted seed collection has started and research projects looking at novel methods of planting/site treatment that will hopefully improve survival in a changing climate are at various stages. Updates to native plant nurseries are also underway. The two planning components, the riparian strategy and landowner outreach plan are just beginning.





HSIL

Skagit Watershed Council was awarded a grant last year by **Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead** (HSIL) to update and improve our project information in the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP). SRP is the state's salmon project database that is run by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The project's core objective is to improve the accuracy, completeness, and comparability of SRP data and reports, enabling SWC to communicate effectively with the public about:

- The amount and types of habitat and protection work completed in the Skagit Watershed
- Landscape changes from habitat restoration projects
- A more complete picture of Skagit restoration efforts, including projects not currently in SRP
- Comparable data across all four Whidbey Basin lead entities

To date, we have worked with a contractor to assess gaps and inconsistencies in our current SRP data, create a data dictionary, make workplans for each lead entity, and created an upload template to add new projects to SRP. Next up we will be working with sponsor organizations to improve data quality on past projects and add in projects not currently in SRP. At the end of the project we will have a user manual to ensure consistent and comparable data for the future, updated SRP maps on our websites, and a final report.

Communications

As stated in our 5-Year Roadmap, one of the established goals of the Skagit Watershed Council is to engage and educate the Skagit and Samish communities through education, outreach, and active involvement opportunities. This year, we set out to increase our engagement with the public by expanding our online presence. We refreshed our Facebook and Instagram content and began posting regularly, launched our first monthly e-newsletter to keep the community informed, and began work on a brand-new website that we're excited to debut next year. Across our digital platforms, we've seen over a 200% increase in reach and interactions, while our audience continues to grow steadily.

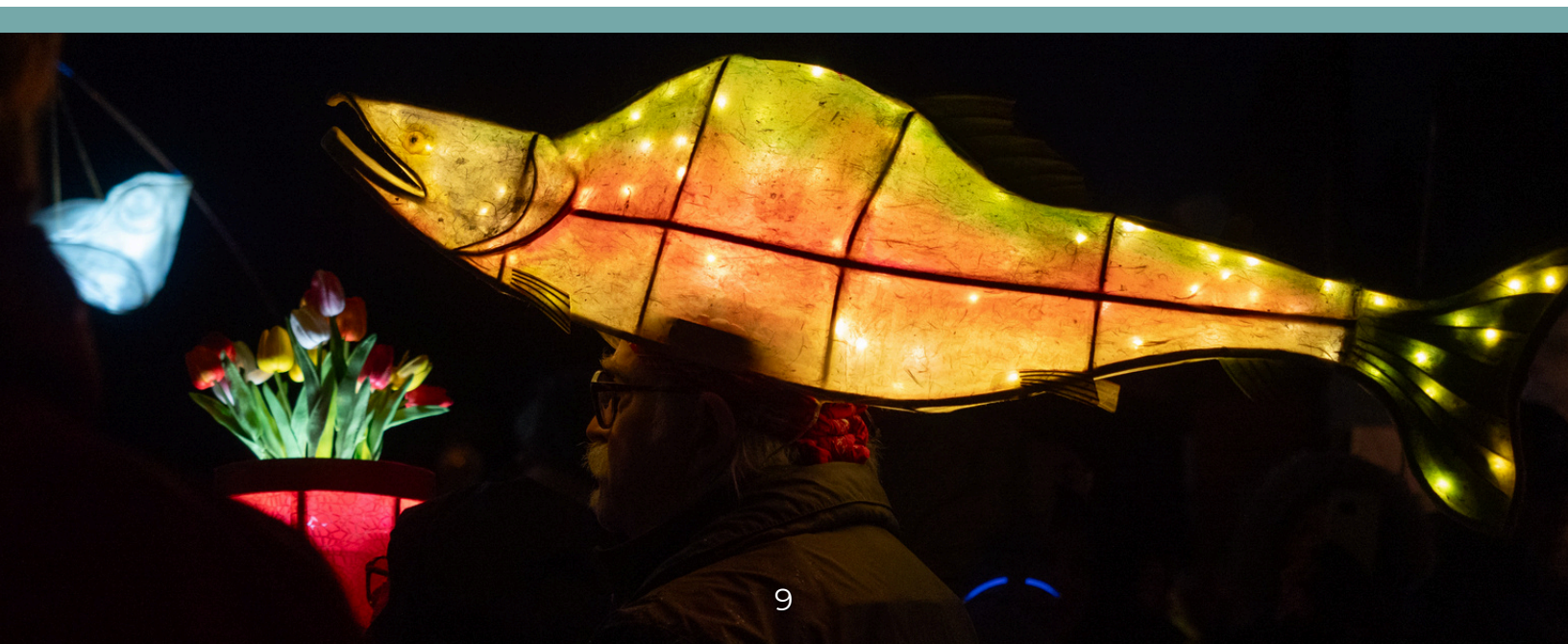
Our Community Engagement Committee has expanded this year to include new organizations, strengthening our outreach network. We've continued to help plan and participate in important events like Illuminight, Salmon Day at the Market, and Concrete Youth Activity Day, and we maintain a Community Calendar that acts as a central resource for environmentally-focused events throughout the region.

Visit skagitwatershed.org to stay connected and follow along as we continue expanding the ways we engage with our community!

Visit our Community Calendar

This calendar is frequently updated with events across our region, including volunteer opportunities, family-friendly activities, science-focused lectures and workshops, and more!

[Available at skagitwatershed.org/events](https://skagitwatershed.org/events)



We love you, Scottie!

If you've visited the Skagit Watershed Council any time in the past 28 years – whether as a board member, for a committee meeting, or to attend an event – you've almost certainly met Scottie. Scottie Schneider has been the Office Manager at the Watershed Council for almost as long as it has existed. She started in 1998, when the organization was just over a year old.



Scottie officially retired at the end of July, marking the end of an era for the council and the start of an exciting - *and very well-deserved* – new chapter for her.

Scottie grew up in Vancouver, BC, where she said, “Salmon were a huge part of our lives because my dad fished, and we always had salmon.” Though she often fished with her dad, Scottie shared that she never actually caught a salmon until she moved here to the Skagit. She also didn't know they were a keystone species until she started working with SWC. “I didn't know anything about the scientific part of salmon,” she said. “So that's been very interesting to me. They're pretty amazing fish.”

While her interest in salmon helped drive her decision to join the team, when asked what kept her here for 28 years, the answer was clear: “The people,” she said, “the hardworking, dedicated, knowledgeable, caring people I've been associated with.” With her warmth, humor, and welcoming spirit, Scottie helped nearly 100 board and committee members feel at home here. Her behind-the-scenes support has made the Watershed Council's work possible.

Scottie's contributions have gone far beyond keeping the office running smoothly. She played an integral role in organizing SWC events like our Annual Lunches, the Salmon Festival, and the River Processionals we used to do each year. Always willing to go the extra mile, we could count on Scottie to keep our teams fueled through day-long committee meetings or countywide site visits – even if that meant driving an hour away to set up an outdoor lunch in the pouring rain, like she did earlier this year.

While Scottie says she's excited to leave complicated grant billing in the past, she has no plans to discontinue her support of the Skagit Watershed. “I'm looking for more volunteer opportunities that take me outdoors,” she says, citing the many meaningful relationships she's built with our member organizations over the years.

For 28 years, Scottie has been such an important part of the Skagit Watershed Council, and it simply won't be the same without her. We are endlessly grateful for everything she has done for our organization, the people who have passed through its doors, and the Skagit Watershed itself. We're so excited for this next chapter for her, and hope she stops by from time to time to tell us all about her new adventures.

What We Leave for Gilligan

By Kevin Tate, 2026 Skagit Salmon Story Contest Winner

Above the gorge,
the creek runs the color
of strong tea, swollen
with whatever the mountain's been holding
since November.

The canyon walls shoot straight up from the water,
furred over with ferns, and even
in the hottest part of summer the air here
turns cool, the spray finding
whatever skin it can reach.
It feels like the kind of place
that shouldn't have a number attached to it.

Just above the falls, a screen sits in the current
a mile and a half above where Gilligan
finally reaches the Skagit,
a box bolted into the rock, catching what the pipe
can use and letting the rest fall.
No fish has ever seen it. The gorge does that work
on its own, two drops, thirty-five feet
then seventeen more, too steep and white
for anything with gills.
The screen was never built to mind a fish.
It only minds the water:
sorting what becomes a kitchen tap
from what becomes the falls,
loud and the color of an old penny,
down to the gravel that's been waiting for it.

Lower down, past the falls, the creek slows
into gravel a salmon could call home,
not a passage anymore, but a destination,
a place to dig and wait and die in.

September brings the first coho,
hook-jawed, going dark at the edges.
By November the chum push in behind them,
quieter, later, into December
like they're in no hurry to be done with it.
Some years — only the odd ones — pinks too,
showing up on a clock no one set for them.



Even a creek this small gives back more than it keeps.
Eagles know the smell of a spawned-out fish
before anyone else does. What's left
rots into the gravel, into the soil,
into the roots of whatever's leaning
over that part of the creek,
fed, eventually, by something
that swam in from the ocean to die for it.

None of them will ever see the screen.
They only feel what it decided:
a creek small enough to need shade,
small enough that a little taken
is the difference between a redd
that holds and one that washes out.

The same August that brings people here
for the cool of it, for ferns and spray
and a break from the heat,
is the month the creek can least afford to give.
Everyone wanting the same thin water at once.

So in the dry months, a second mouth opens
miles downstream — a pump on the Skagit,
pulling river water uphill to the reservoir,
so Gilligan can keep what little it has
for whoever's spawning in it that month.

One river standing in for the other.
The big one covering
so the small one doesn't have to choose
between a kitchen tap
and a redd.



I turn on the tap in my kitchen
twenty miles from that gorge
and most days don't think about any of it —
not the ferns, not the screen,
not the two worlds that never touch
and still depend on one another completely.

But sometimes I do. I picture the gravel
holding through another winter,
the chum still coming in December rain,
ten minutes of mist on somebody's hottest day,
and the screen, patient and indifferent,
letting just enough of the creek go.

We measure the creek in cubic feet per second.
She measures it in whether the gravel holds.
What we share isn't the water exactly —
it's the part of it nobody decided to keep,
falling free, the way a gift does,
toward whatever it was always for.





Photo: Constructing a tidal channel on the west island at Island Unit, August 7th 2026. Provided by WDFW

Island Unit Estuary Restoration Project

by Jenny Baker, WDFW | August 17th, 2026 Update

WDFW is constructing a 270-acre estuary restoration project on the Island Unit. The site is located on two mid-channel islands at the mouth of the south fork Skagit River near where it enters Skagit Bay and is part of the WDFW-owned Skagit Wildlife Area. The project includes dike and levee removal, channel excavation, scrub-shrub and forested floodplain fill areas, native shrub and tree planting, and weed management. Low angle landings and mounds will provide important access for weed management personnel and recreational users, including waterfowl hunters and kayakers.

Restored estuary will provide critical rearing habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon (which in turn provide food for ESA-listed orcas), adult bull trout and other salmonids, waterfowl, shorebirds, beaver, shellfish, invertebrates and a host of other estuarine-dependent species. Restoration actions will lower flood water elevations for several miles upstream and allow habitats on site to adapt to climate change impacts.



Photo provided by WDFW

The Island Unit Estuary Restoration Project has received \$36M through competitive grant processes, including \$30.5M in state grants and \$5.5M from NOAA. State funds were awarded through Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program grants. Funded activities include: an alternatives analysis, preliminary design, final design and permitting, construction, native tree and shrub planting, and weed control on 2,000 contributing acres.

The project has benefitted from technical review and public input and is supported by tribes and a variety of stakeholders. It is a key project in following through on the commitment to restore public land first and build support for future estuary restoration projects. The project is identified in the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan and is consistent with the Skagit Watershed Council's Year 2022 Strategic Approach and is on the 4-year work plan.



Photo provided by WDFW

Brumfield Construction was hired and work began in June 2026. All equipment and supplies (including fuel) are barged to the site, so barging occurs almost daily at high tide. Brumfield has 15 or more pieces of equipment and 15-20 people working each day. Large drainage and borrow ditches are being defished and dewatered in preparation for fill. The perimeter dike has been partially lowered to generate material for ditch fill. Ditches are being filled and tidal channels are being constructed. Brumfield anticipates completing construction on the west island in early fall.

Annual Financial Report (2025–2026)

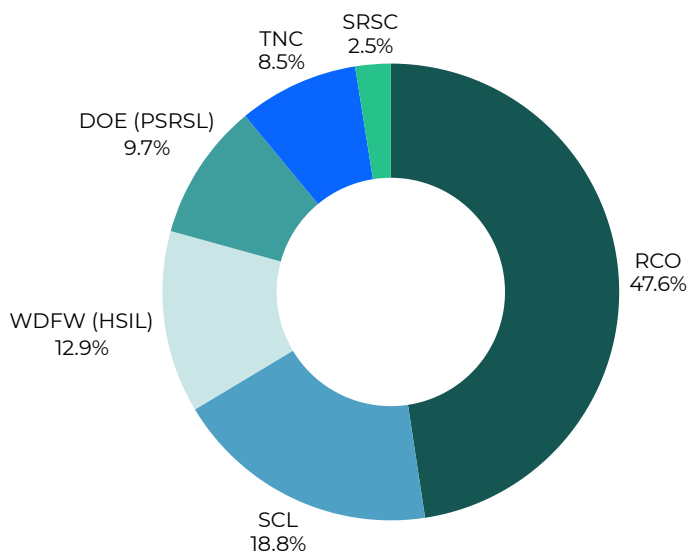
Aundrea McBride

Program Delivery

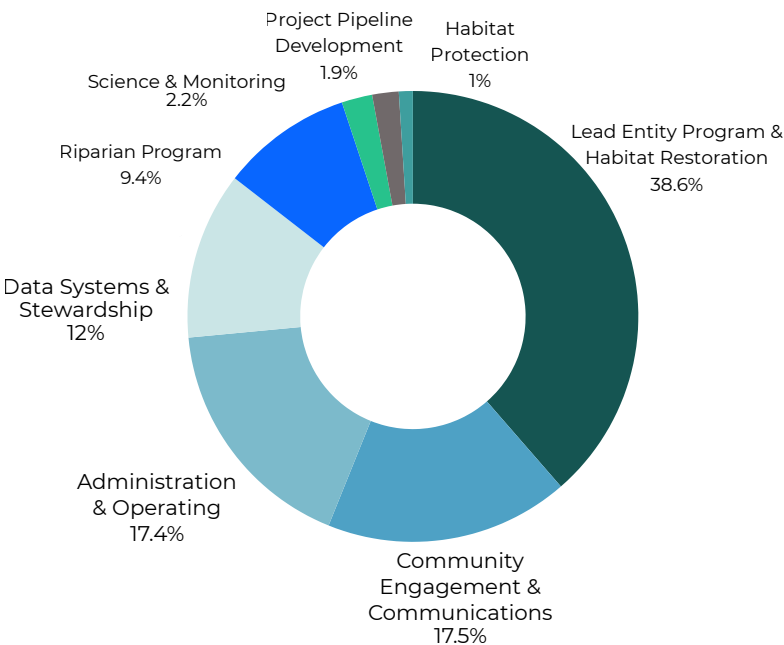
In 2025 SWC secured \$2,105,750 in multi-year grant awards spanning FY2025-26 through FY2028-29, including two two-year grants and one four-year grant. Our total net assets are \$257,200 and our monthly operating budget was \$35,000. About 83% of everything the Council spent went directly into watershed programs — the staff who do the work and the specialists and partner organizations contracted to deliver it.

Administration and office costs accounted for roughly 17%. Funders and charity rating bodies generally treat anything above 75% spent on programs as strong. Thus we have a 95% or 4 star Charity Navigator score. The Council currently operates with a team of four — two full-time and two part-time positions — and this is the configuration we intend to carry forward, budgets allowing.

Income



Expenses by Program



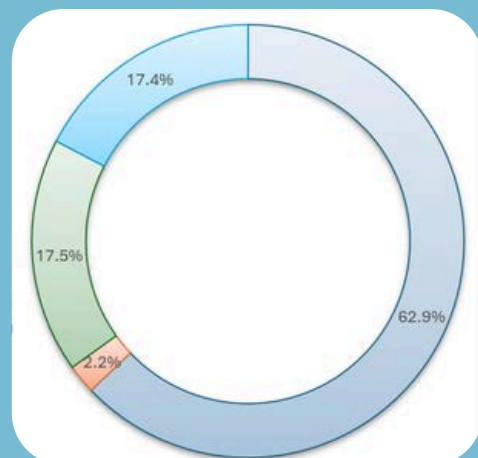
Work Completed

We aligned our work with the SWC Board's strategic plan, called the 5-Year Roadmap. We broadly addressed all 4 goals and achieved results (Roadmap result numbers in parentheses), including:

- Implemented the Lead Entity Program to fund excellent voluntary habitat restoration and protection projects (1.1a).
 - Thoroughly and comprehensively vetted a project list of 9 projects for state funding (1.2a).
 - Improved statistical analysis of projects during the technical review process (1.2a).
 - Increased landowner participation in habitat protection by purchasing land conservation properties and easements (1.2c).
 - Developed draft project review criteria for riparian projects and for folding in climate change considerations into project review (2.2c).
 - Added committee members from U.S. Forest Service and the Town of LaConner (4.2a).
 - Updated our 4 Year Workplan process to include and support projects outside of our Lead Entity process and SRFB dollars (1.3b).
 - Added monitoring projects to the 4-Year Work Plan based on review of the 2020 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Report (2.3a and 2.3b).
- Continued to create a collaborative space where diverse stakeholders can come together to discuss and shape restoration and protection projects, where questions, feedback, and dissent are welcome (1.1c, 4.1a).
- Published the SWC 5 Year Roadmap and Annual Report (3.1b).
- Identified and secured new funding sources to implement innovative projects for improving data systems (WDFW) and riparian project planning (DOE) (1.2b).
- Held the Skagit Salmon Science Series with a talk on basin-wide temperature monitoring (2.1a).
- Began updating and reimagining our strategic Communications Plan (3.2c).
- Began work on a Science Communications Section of our SWC Communications Plan (2.1b).
- Began work on a new website (3.2d).
- Attended and presented at the Skagit Council of Governments meetings and held project information meetings for our initiating governments (3.2b)
- Expanded outreach channels and frequency (3.2b).
- Recruited and nurtured happy, fairly-compensated staff who work together like a Formula One pit crew (4.4.2c and d, 4.3a-c).

FY2026 Spending Against Roadmap Goals

- Goal 1: Support effective, voluntary salmon habitat restoration and protection projects that have broad community support
- Goal 2: Facilitate the gathering and sharing of salmon science relevant to the Skagit and Samish Watersheds to serve restoration and protection efforts by practitioners and the broader community
- Goal 3: Engage with the Skagit and Samish watershed communities to educate and involve them in salmon issues and voluntary restoration and protection projects.
- Goal 4: Maintain and enhance organizational excellence





Looking Ahead

The Work: The big news for the FY 2027 is that our new website will go live! It will include new video content currently in production. We have been working hard on other content as well! It will be modernized and made more accessible and intuitive.

We will be diving into the riparian strategy work and finishing our data management and stewardship project, allowing us to better utilize the state Salmon Recovery Portal database for updating progress statistics for habitat restoration and protection.

We will also continue our progress on updating SWC policies and procedures—boring but necessary work to keep us functioning optimally and transparently (I actually think it's cool, but I'm a geek like that.).

The Money: FY2027 is budgeted at \$1.06M with subawards to partner organizations rising to around half of all spending. The habitat data grant completes in June 2027 as planned, so FY2028 will be a smaller budget year by design. The riparian strategy project runs to 2029 and provides a stable funding base in addition to RCO funds and SCL funds. As you may know, state funding is uncertain in the current financial climate. We will adapt to whatever the legislature throws our way.

Your Part: In FY2027 we hope you will sign up for our social media accounts (see links in this report) and stay informed about breaking news in the salmon world and in Skagit salmon habitat stories in particular. Attend events. Be curious. Find wonder. We appreciate all you bring to our Community Partnership for Salmon! Keep coming back for as long as it takes to bring our salmon home.



The Executive Director and Board review financials, the ED monthly and the Board quarterly. The Board meets monthly. Accounts are reviewed by a third-party accounting firm every three years. The last review was in 2025 for FY2024. Our tax returns are posted on our website.

2025/26 Committee Rosters

Technical Work Group

- Rick Hartson (Chair)
- Emily Derenne
- Jeff Fisher
- Jessica Lange
- Yuki Reiss
- Alex Richard
- Colin Wahl
- Allison Hutchens

Protection Subcommittee

- Rick Hartson (Chair)
- Scott Heller
- Denise Krownbell
- Bengt Miller
- Kari Odden
- Kate Ramsden
- Marcus Reaves

Skagit Science Committee

- Mike LeMoine (Chair)
- Jenny Baker
- Jeff Fisher
- Rick Hartson
- Jenn Johnson
- Jen O'Neal

Board of Directors Roster on pg. 2
LECC & TRC Rosters on pg. 4

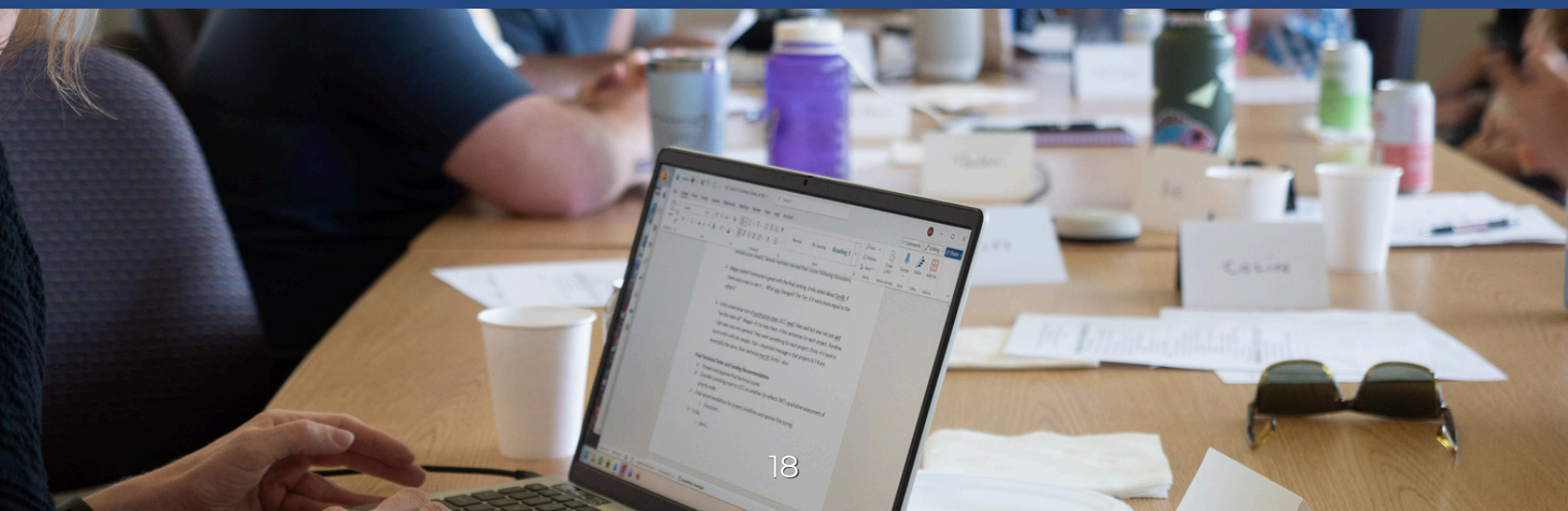
Our work is accomplished through and supported by the invaluable expertise of SWC committee members. They come from a broad swath of organizations and governments that work together to define a science-based path forward to meet the policy objectives laid out by the co-managers in the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan.

Riparian Work Group

- Brenda Clifton
- Rebecca Rising
- Allison Hutchens
- Emily Derenne
- Jonathan Worley
- Taylor Scott

Community Engagement Committee

- Elle England (Chair)
- Allison Hutchens
- Lucy DeGrace
- Stacy Dahl
- Sarah Gardam
- Tracie Merrill
- Pete Haase
- Bob Gillespie
- Colleen Shannon
- Katrina White



Thank You to all who make our work & this report possible:

- **All of our committee and board members** for volunteering their time to support our mission
- **Rick Hartson**, our volunteer of the year who participates on four committees and chairs two of them!
- **All the staff** at the Skagit Watershed Council, who work together like a circus juggling troupe
- **Partner organizations** working on projects with us: Stillaguamish Lead Entity, Snohomish Lead Entity, Island County Lead Entity, Skagit River System Cooperative, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Conservation District, and Skagit Land Trust
- **Kevin Tate**, winner of the Skagit Salmon Story contest, and all others who submitted works
- **Daniel Kipervaser**, board member who agreed to be interviewed
- **Jenny Baker** at WDFW for the update on Island Unit
- **Trent Vigor** at LithTex NW printing for taking such good care of us and our deadlines
- **Emily Derenne** and **Jenny Baker** for volunteering for project spotlights
- **Annual Lunch** cooks, servers and volunteers
- **Upper Skagit Indian Tribe** for providing salmon for our Annual Lunch
- **Ellis McBride** for her canine contributions to employee morale

Businesses we frequent

- **Donna Flora** - Beth Haley
- **Skagit Valley Food Co-op** for feeding us well at site visits and ranking meetings and getting up early to do it
- **Kevin Paul**, master carver, for helping us adore our loved ones
- **Lithtex NW Printing Solutions**
- **WSU Extension** for their meeting space
- **Padilla Bay NERR** for their meeting space
- **Pacific Party Canopies**

Get involved with the Skagit Watershed Council:



Sign up for Skagit River Tidings

Our once-monthly email shares exciting news about our watershed, restoration project updates, an inside look at the grant round process, upcoming community events, and more!

[scan the QR code or visit skagitwatershed.org](https://www.skagitwatershed.org)

Follow us on Social Media



@ourskagit



@skagitwatershedcouncil

OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



Thank you for being a part of our community partnership for salmon!

What makes **our Skagit** special?

Answers from participants at Concrete Youth Activity Day, 2026

