

North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership



John McMillan

The North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership unites public and private resources in a voluntary, incentive-based approach to protect the healthiest remaining salmon ecosystems in North America. The Partnership includes local communities, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, tribes, business interests and private landowners who are working collaboratively on salmon conservation and restoration activities across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Alaska.

Focusing on Salmon Strongholds

While recovery of threatened and endangered wild Pacific salmon populations is vital, this approach needs to be supplemented with a strategy to conserve the strongest populations of wild salmon to keep them healthy and prevent them from declining.

The North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership complements salmon recovery activities by supporting proactive, collaborative conservation projects, and focusing resources on a network of our most abundant, productive and diverse salmon river ecosystems – America’s wild salmon strongholds.

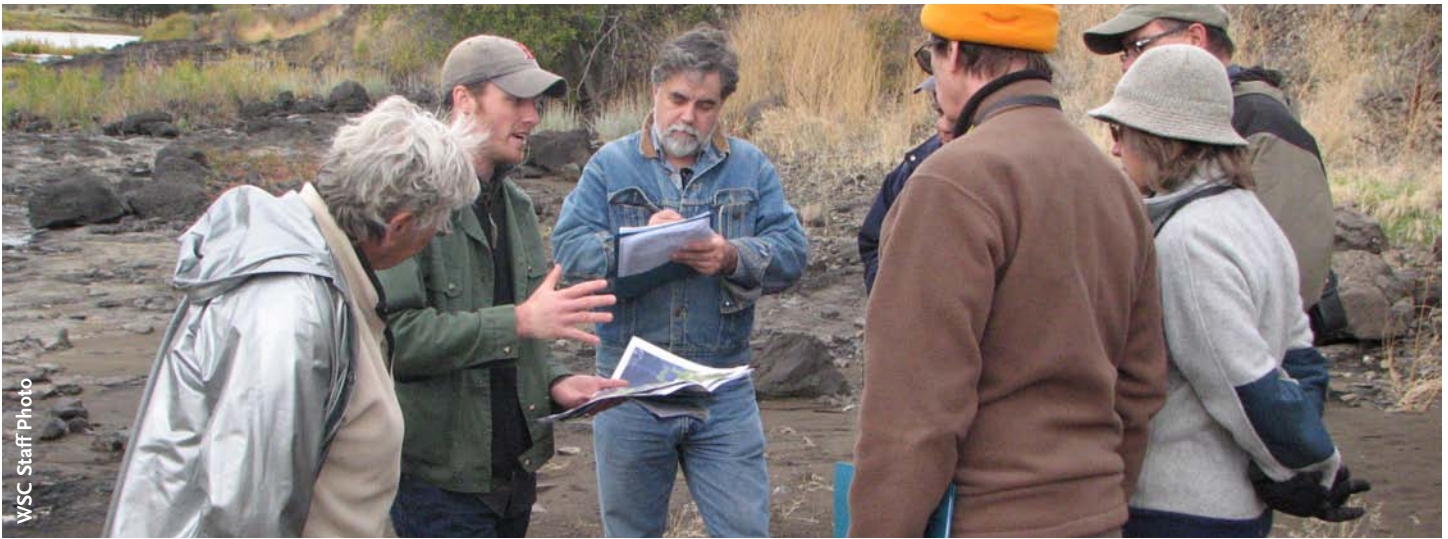
Working with Communities

Without local community involvement, long-term salmon conservation and river restoration efforts will not succeed. The North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership is engaging local communities in creating a sustainable, incentive-based conservation approach that includes all stakeholders to protect salmon ecosystems.

By working with communities to conserve these key salmon ecosystems, we will ensure these rivers continue to provide sustainable environmental and economic services for generations to come. These services include fresh water, timber, and the fish and wildlife that generate long-term revenue and sustainable recreational and commercial fisheries.

The Salmon Stronghold Partnership:

- **Identifies Salmon Stronghold Basins.** The Partnership has developed an innovative, science-based methodology to identify the healthiest North American salmon stronghold river basins.
- **Supports High Priority Conservation Actions.** Determines which populations of salmon and steelhead are strongest, then prioritizes the actions necessary to keep these populations healthy, and supports completion of these conservation actions.
- **Provides Resources and Support for Local Communities.** The Partnership leverages public and private funding sources and taps into the expertise of numerous state and federal land agency experts and scientists to assist in conservation efforts.



WSC Staff Photo



Current Prioritized Salmon Stronghold Basins

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| A. Skagit | K. Clackamas |
| B. Wenatchee | L. Siletz |
| C. Snohomish | M. Deschutes |
| D. Upper Olympic Peninsula | N. John Day |
| E. Lower Olympic Peninsula | O. Siuslaw |
| F. Columbia | P. Umpqua |
| G. Nehalem | Q. Elk River |
| H. Tillamook | R. Rogue |
| I. Lewis | S. Smith |
| J. Sandy | T. Klamath |
| | U. Mad River |
| | V. Upper Salmon |

Building the Partnership

As an open and inclusive initiative, the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership wholeheartedly invites active participation by all who share an interest in sustaining healthy runs of salmon and steelhead, and particularly in contributing to efforts in stronghold basins. Any group, organization, tribe, entity, or individual citizen is invited to join.

Currently, Stronghold Partnership Charter signatories include:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Idaho Office of Species Conservation
- Oregon Governor’s Office
- OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Salmon Recovery Office
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Trout Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wild Salmon Center

Other Stronghold Partnership Participants Include: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency, CA Dept of Fish and Game, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, several Northwest Tribes, and the Conservation Fund.

To get involved or learn more about the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership, please contact the Wild Salmon Center:

Jay Nicholas, Program Manager
 North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership
 (541) 231-5955
 jnicholas@wildsalmoncenter.org

Erica Stock, Partnership Coordinator
 North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership
 (503) 222-1804 x210
 estock@wildsalmoncenter.org



WA Salmon Recovery Office



WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

