



# NEWS

**NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS UNTIL OCTOBER**

**June 2008 Issue**

## **FISH FIRST SUMMER SCHEDULE --Short on Meetings, Long on Work--**

For the benefit of new members who may not know the routine, FF suspends membership meetings during the summer months and resumes them in the fall. See the Calendar of Events on this page for the meeting schedule. The FF Board of Directors continues to meet on the first Wed. of every month to run the ongoing business of the organization, monitor financial activity and authorize any necessary actions. Habitation projects also happen in summer. FF will continue to put out the NEWS (this newsletter) each month to provide contact among members and keep you up with what your organization is doing.

## **WALK THE WALK, GET MORE INVOLVED IN FISH FIRST**

Last month's newsletter had a story about re-organization to make FF more effective and spread the workload. The Board has also extended an invitation to any member who wants to take on more responsibility to step up and volunteer for one of the officer positions. The President's position (formerly Executive Director) and the two new Vice President Positions are open. If you have ideas, energy and ability **FF needs your help**. Please contact John DiVittorio 360-713-7460.

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## **Calendar of Events for Fish First**

**Meetings Resume Thursday Oct 16th,  
Oak Tree Restaurant  
Woodland, WA 7pm**

**Member Meetings  
Always on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7 p.m.,  
Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA**

Oak Tree is at Exit 21 off I-5  
North bound I-5 take Exit 21 and it's straight ahead when you hit the stoplight  
Southbound I-5 Woodland Exit and follow frontage road to stoplight, left and under the overpass

**Future Meeting Dates:**  
Summer Break June-September

October 16, 2008  
November 20, 2008  
December 18, 2008  
January 15, 2009  
February 19, 2009  
March 19, 2009  
April 16, 2009  
May 21, 2009

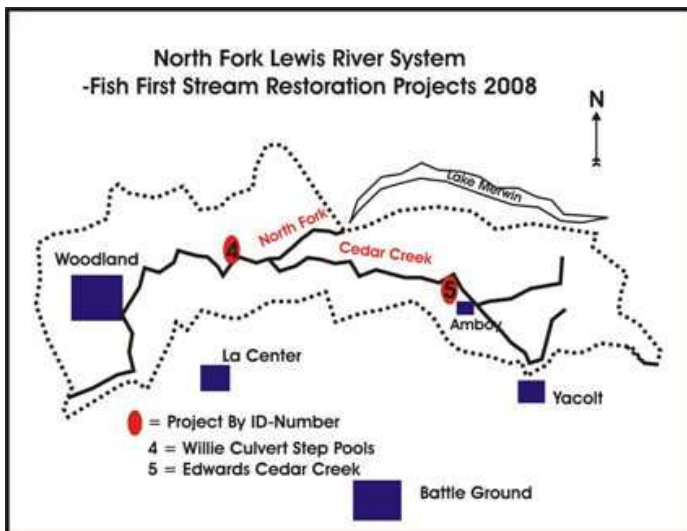
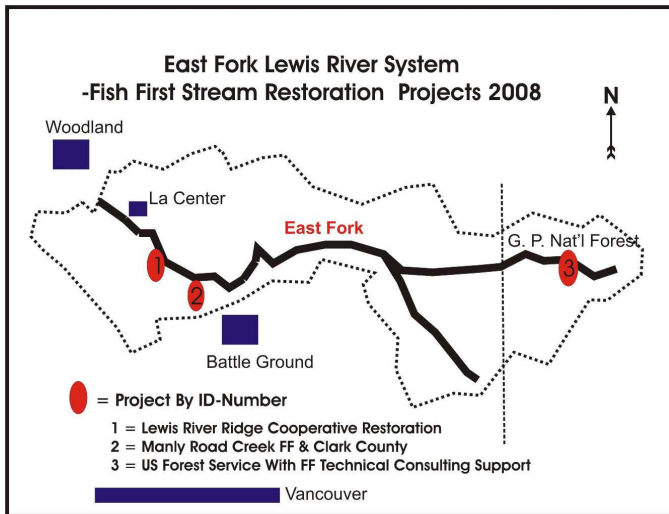
**On the Internet: [www.fishfirst.org](http://www.fishfirst.org)**

Contacts: John DiVittorio, 360-713-7460  
Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646  
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836  
Jerry Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559

# FF Project Schedule for 2008

By Dick Dyrland, Chief Hydrologist

The 2008 in-stream restoration season has a construction window that starts on July 15 and closes on September 30. Fish First has 4 of its own projects and 1 project where we provide technical support to the US Forest Service (refer to the two schematic maps of the East Fork and North Fork Lewis River System.



The projects are:

- 1. Lewis River Ridge.** 1200 ft. East Fork Stream restoration. Project is funded by the WA State Legislator and Clark County. Cost is \$ 510,000. The river is highly degraded in the

lower East Fork. This reach has very high summer temperatures, extreme sedimentation, and lack of cover for all 4 species of "T&E" listed salmon. In addition, the cliffs above the reach are sliding into the river threatening the loss of 5 houses and property.

Treatments include benching out from the unstable cliff above, installing wood/rock weirs to divert the river flow into the middle of the channel which will also create deep pools. Addition of numerous root wads and other wood to provide cover and habitat for fish.

- 2. Manley Road Creek.** 700 ft. spring fed tributary off of East Fork. Project is funded by National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Community Salmon Fund. Cost is \$ 46,000. It is a cooperative project with Clark County and Fish First.

The water is spring fed of very high quality on this tributary and is used by "T&E" listed Coho and Steelhead. The old pond built in the middle of the channel leaks and dries up, stranding juvenile fish before they can migrate to the East Fork.

The treatments will include having the pond filled in, a new channel built in its place along with a narrow pool that can be used for rearing purposes. Root wads will be added to the bank for cover and spawning gravel added in the 100 ft. of channel above the old pond. This project is strongly supported by WAF&W.

- 3. Steelhead Spawning Beds In Headwaters Below Abandoned Bridge.** 600 ft. Short reach on "headwaters" of upper East Fork above Sunset Campground on Gifford Pinchot National Forest just below the abandoned concrete bridge. Project is funded by a special "RAC" community economic development fund and administered by the US Forest Service. Cost is estimated at \$ 70,000.

This section or reach, in the upper river or "headwaters" where the larger steelhead spawn, has over time lost most of the spawning gravel at this key site.

Treatment will involve installing gravel holding cross-weirs and gravel along with large root wads similar to what has proven so highly successful on cedar creek of the North Fork. Fish First is providing hydrologic technical assistance to the project.

4. **Willie Culvert Fish Access Step Pools.** 70 ft. Stavle Creek tributary access from North Fork. Cost is \$ 18,000 funded by Fish America Foundation.

The 1996 flood disconnected the stream from the North Fork when it blew out the channel below the culvert outlet. The culvert is on the major east-west highway along the north bank of the River. The watershed has 2.8 miles of high quality habitat that will be accessed by coho and possibly steelhead. It is an excellent RSI site.

Treatment will be a series of wood and rock step pools leading up to the mouth of the 4.5 foot concrete culvert. The channel will be restocked with spawning gravel below and wood material will be added to the banks.



**Photo: Willie Ck. Culvert, N. Fk. of Lewis**

5. **Bob Edwards Reach On Cedar Creek.** 1800 ft. Main channel of Cedar Creek downstream from Amboy, WA. Project is funded by grant from Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. Cost is \$ 91,000.

This reach of Cedar Creek was used primarily by Chinook salmon as well as Coho and Steelhead before it was degraded. Similar to the highly successful Bill Doty project downstream from this reach of Cedar Creek, it

too had lost the deep pools, spawning areas, and has very little bank cover or wood in the system.

Treatments include intensive input of root wads and other woody material, rebuild 3 spawning areas, and add gravel holding cross-weirs, one re-activated side-channel, as well as cedar tree plantings on the banks. This project is strongly supported by the WA F&W.



**Photo: Bob Edwards Reach of Cedar Ck.**

## Summary

This group of 2008 projects is relatively diverse and treat a range of fisheries & stream restoration problems. Normally Fish First does only one or two restoration projects a year. Because of delays of almost two years in obtaining some permits, the projects have become “bunched” up in 2008. The Fish First “Stream Team” of 6 experienced professionals has enough capability and funding to get these projects done this summer. The size and complexity of the projects vary considerably. Another important factor is “community and landowner” involvement. Based on the history of the wide range of programs and projects we do, Fish First has earned a high level of credibility with local landowners and the general community in the Lewis River System.

Fish First has an outstanding record of getting “good projects” done right. We plan to continue doing highly productive restoration projects now and in the future.

## **CCA Says Salmon Run Predictions Way Off, Leads to Non Selective Overharvest and asks WDFW to make Changes**

The following are excerpts from a CCA letter to WDFW Director Jeff Koenings dated June 18<sup>th</sup>. They were made available to FF News by Ed Wickersham, CCA Government Relations Committee

### **Spring Chinook: High confidence plus a failed model results in poor stewardship**

As of June 15, 2008 the total number of spring Chinook passing Bonneville Dam was 151,853. WDFW staff originally relied upon an estimated return of 269,300 fish. If you figure 26,000 fish were harvested and allow for mortality of 1,000 fish killed after release, this is a *30% overestimate*. Unfortunately, commercial gillnet and sport harvests were placed at the very front of the season based on this overly optimistic forecast.... Unfortunately, this year's miscalculation is not an isolated event...

... managers continue to front-load the harvest and allow commercial fishers to use non-selective gillnets before proper numbers of wild fish escape. On behalf of CCA Washington and concerned citizens, we request that WDFW undergo efforts to improve its predictive models, provide allowances for error, and employ buffering practices to account for the low confidence the current forecasting methods deserve.

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Fish First  
PO Box 1505  
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### **Summer Chinook: Opportunities for proper stewardship**

We urge immediate action to prevent over-harvest of wild and ESA-listed stocks present in the upcoming summer Chinook run. Currently your prediction is for 52,000 of these fish to return. Moreover, fragile ESA-listed Snake River Sockeye and wild summer steelhead are also present with this fragile Columbia summer Chinook run. Therefore, selective harvest is imperative to prevent impacts to these stocks.

Despite opportunities for selective fishing, the Department's current management regime for this run is not selective and does not take advantage of fishing methods which allow for the live release of non-target wild Chinook. ....

....To ensure escapement, managers must base any harvest season, particularly non-selective gillnetting, on the most conservative run estimates, not on the most optimistic predictions, and must include buffering practices to mitigate for expected estimating errors....

Sincerely,  
Rick Anderson Chair, CCA Washington GRC  
cc: WDFW Commission, ODFW Commission