



ADULT
CHUM

North Coast Watershed Association | River Council



What is a watershed council?

Watershed: the land that drains into a river or creek

A **watershed council** is a **community-based, voluntary, non-regulatory group** of local residents who work together on projects to restore or enhance waters and lands for fish, wildlife, and native plants.

Note: Oregon is one of the few states to have a community-based model, supported by the state and recognized by local governments.

North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA):

A partnership of locally led watershed councils

Non-profit, non-regulatory organization that can leverage funding for projects

Our Mission:

To improve watershed health through community-based efforts

We believe that the overall health of our watersheds and communities will improve by restoring the social, economic, and ecological roles of salmon.







INTRODUCING RETURN OF THE REDDS

Welcome to the recently branded **Return of the Redds**, an exciting new collaboration between the North Coast Watershed Association, local landowners, the forest products industry, nonprofits, and government agencies—all united around a common goal: **To revitalize the once-abundant chum salmon populations in the Big Creek and Youngs Bay watersheds**



Why Chum?



- Keystone species indicate watershed health.
- Aggressive spawning behavior of chum improves spawning conditions for other salmon species.
- Healthy populations of chum support healthy populations of other salmon species.

Are Chum In Trouble?

- Once abundant, Columbia River chum salmon are now listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Lower Columbia chum have declined more than any other Columbia River salmon species.
- Causes for declines include overfishing, loss or degradation of river spawning habitat, and changes that have been made to tidal wetlands.



LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CHUM STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

- Science-based strategic plan
- Lower Columbia River Chum Salmon Partnership
- Local information compiled by local experts
- Youngs Bay and Big Creek Watersheds show a huge potential to support chum populations—with a little bit of help!





LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CHUM STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Geomorphic assessments and sediment source surveys in the lower portions of the Big Creek and Lewis and Clark River systems, where chum historically spawned, are important for understanding channel dynamics, evaluating risks and benefits, assessing habitat restoration approaches, and identifying projects with willing landowners.

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CHUM STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

- A tool in our toolbox
- A strategy that will allow us to all work together to improve chum habitat and landscape health



RETURN OF THE REDDS | Good For Fish, Good For Folks

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THANK YOU!

