



**Salmon Program  
Federal Recovery Projects  
Post-Evaluation Project Summary**

<b>TITLE:</b> N Fork Chinook Pond Operation			<b>NUMBER:</b> 99-1609N (Non-Capital)
			<b>STATUS:</b> Closed Completed
<b>SPONSOR:</b> County of Whatcom			<b>EVALUATION SCORE:</b>
			<b>BOARD RANKING:</b>
<b>COSTS:</b>			<b>SPONSOR MATCH:</b>
Salmon Federal Projects	\$32,487	45%	In-Kind
Local	\$39,436	55%	
Total	\$71,923	100%	

**DESCRIPTION:**

The objective of this project is the support of the operation of three spring Chinook acclimation & imprinting ponds on the tributaries to the North Fork of the Nooksack river above RM 55. This project provides benefits to the recovery of North Fork Nooksack native Chinook by allowing hatchery produced native Chinook fry to be imprinted to the upper North Fork. Imprinted juveniles return as adults to the reaches of the river near the acclimation pond sites and spawn naturally in the river rather than returning to the hatchery. This program has been in place for 12 years and is part of the recovery effort sponsored by the basin's co-managers.

Volunteer's (supported by the efforts of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, the local regional enhancement program) man the three sites 24 hours per day for approximately eight weeks. WDFW staff oversees and monitors the rearing programs.

All fry are otolith marked at the hatchery prior to transfer to the acclimation ponds. WDFW and Tribal spawning ground survey crews recover otoliths from carcass that are then read to determine contribution to the spawning population of hatchery reared native Chinook. CWT groups have been released to estimate overall survival and fishery contribution / interceptions.

**LOCATION INFORMATION:**

<b>ST SALMON REGION:</b> Puget Sound North	<b>LEAD ENTITY ORG:</b> Whatcom County Lead Entity
<b>COUNTY:</b> Whatcom	<b>WRIA:</b> Nooksack (1)

**SCOPE (ELEMENTS):**

Salaries and Benefits

<b>FISCAL YEAR:</b> 1999	<b>DATE PRINTED:</b> June 12, 2003
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