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**Contact:**

Devona Ensmenger, Wild Salmon Center, Port Angeles, WA, 360-640-2631

Chris Robbins, Wild Salmon Center, Portland, OR, 503-222-1804

Obtain copy of report at: [http://wildsalmoncenter.org/pdf/WSC\\_Hoh\\_Tributary\\_Report.pdf](http://wildsalmoncenter.org/pdf/WSC_Hoh_Tributary_Report.pdf)

## **Wild Salmon Center Study Identifies the Best Salmon Habitat on the Olympic Peninsula's Hoh River**

*Seven years of field data were collected to prioritize the most important conservation actions in the watershed.*

**(Port Angeles, WA – July 10, 2008)** – One of the most intensive salmon and habitat studies ever conducted on the Olympic Peninsula was released this week, focusing on the Hoh River Basin, one of the most productive wild salmon rivers in northwest Washington.

"This report is invaluable to local watershed planning," said Mike Hagen, Director of Land Management at the Hoh River Trust. "Even in its draft forms, it has already become the source for much of the Hoh Basin restoration strategy."

Produced and released by the Wild Salmon Center, an international organization based in Portland Oregon, the report relies on seven years of field survey data collected to identify the most important salmon rearing and spawning habitat in the Hoh River Basin.

The report's findings will be used to inform the prioritization of Hoh River tributaries for conservation actions, and can be used to bolster the case for funding watershed health projects identified by the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity. Some of the report's recommendations include riparian habitat restoration, land conservation easements and willing-seller land acquisitions.

### **What the Report Found:**

- Winfield Creek was found to be the most productive tributary of the Hoh River Basin. While this sub-basin represents only 3.5 percent of the Hoh watershed, it contains 15 percent of all fall Chinook redds observed. Thus, the sub-basin represents the highest priority in the Hoh River Basin for conservation actions

such as willing seller acquisitions and easements of private and corporate timberlands.

- Nolan Creek and Elk Creek each scored good for habitat and salmon. Because these are privately owned tributaries, they are good candidates for willing seller acquisitions and easements, as well as restoration projects that increase instream wood and spawning gravel.
- Other tributaries (Braden, Anderson, Alder and Willoughby) generally scored fair for salmon and good for habitat. Of these tributaries, Braden scored excellent for habitat. The report recommends that these creeks will benefit from a gold-standard forestry certification process, such as that of the Forest Certification Council.

### **Science Will Guide Wild Salmon Conservation**

"Our goal is to conserve the best places as quickly as possible in the Hoh River watershed – but we first needed the science to guide conservation efforts," said John McMillan a salmonid ecologist and co-author of the report. "We believe that with this report, and the seven years of intensive fish and habitat surveys it represents, we now have a firm foundation of science with which to proceed."

"We were not alone in this effort," continued McMillan. "The Hoh Indian Tribe, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, the Hoh River Trust, NOAA and other local stakeholders all contributed substantially."

"This report will help us work with our partners to put our resources in the most important places for wild salmon conservation on the Hoh River," said Devona Ensmenger, Wild Salmon Center's Olympic Peninsula Program Coordinator who helped conduct the field surveys. "We look forward to taking the next steps to further wild salmon conservation efforts on the Hoh."

### **About the Wild Salmon Center**

*Based in Portland Oregon, the Wild Salmon Center is an international science-based organization whose mission is to identify, understand and protect the best wild salmon ecosystems of the North Pacific. Find out more at [www.wildsalmoncenter.org](http://www.wildsalmoncenter.org)*

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