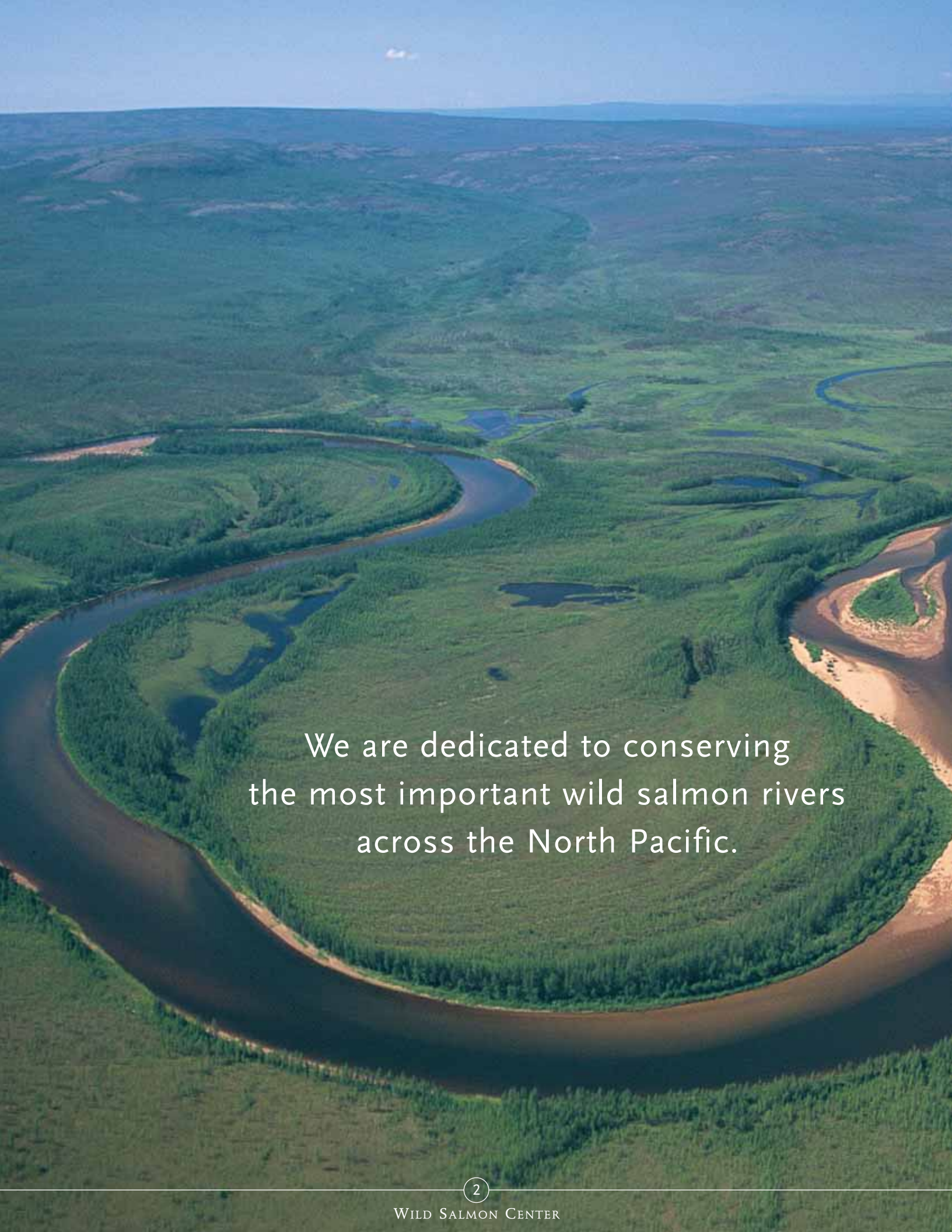


THE
WILD
SALMON
CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river with a brownish hue, meandering through a vast, lush green landscape. The river forms large, sweeping loops and smaller meanders, surrounded by dense forests and open fields. The terrain is rolling, with hills and valleys visible in the distance under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed wilderness.

We are dedicated to conserving
the most important wild salmon rivers
across the North Pacific.

I remember vividly the day I first landed on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula twelve years ago.



As far as I could see, mountains, valleys, lakes, and meadows bore little trace of human impact. Awestruck, my wonder was equaled by a sense of urgency. Not so long

ago, my home rivers in the Pacific Northwest were as undisturbed and teeming with life; how soon before these pristine ecosystems lost their natural balance?

The Wild Salmon Center was founded in 1992 by a small group of anglers and scientists hoping to learn about these rivers for the benefit of future generations. Today the Wild Salmon Center is an international organization that uses science, policy, and partnerships to identify and conserve the most important places for native Pacific salmon. With a staff representing an impressive range of education, experience, and talent, we are safeguarding the best salmon rivers in the North Pacific and improving the lives of the people who call these salmon ecosystems home.

This past year we achieved perhaps our biggest institutional victory yet: we won an agreement by the Governor of Kamchatka to create a 500,000 acre headwaters-to-

ocean salmon protected area in what we envision will be a network throughout the North Pacific. We orchestrated campaigns to protect some of the most beautiful forests and wild, clear-flowing rivers remaining south of Canada. And we published our *Atlas of Pacific Salmon*, the most comprehensive book ever produced on the status of Pacific salmon in the context of people and their land.

What we accomplished in 2004 alone—with our international collaborators and your generous support—unequivocally demonstrates that it is possible to get ahead of the extinction curve and save wild salmon, while we still have time.

Thank you for your interest, support, and involvement in our effort to save these complex and vital salmon rivers. Our accomplishments would not be possible without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guido Rahr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Guido Rahr,
President and Chief Executive Officer*

PHOTO:
The Uchur River, one of
the three main tributaries
of the Aldan River in the
Russian Far East.

Strategy for Conservation



DAVE MARTIN

PHOTO (ABOVE): Sergei Zolotukhin, Khabarovsk TINRO, and James Ray, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, monitoring salmon along the Oregon Coast.

PHOTO (RIGHT): The Koppi River, along the eastern coastline of Primorye, is among the most productive salmon rivers in the Russian Far East.

Despite some of the most ambitious and expensive salmon recovery efforts in history, we have not succeeded in stopping the northward-marching decline of wild Pacific salmon. The Wild Salmon Center is calling for a dramatic shift in strategy to protect the last, best places while we still can. We believe that to sustain healthy wild salmon into the next century we must permanently protect the most productive and diverse salmon rivers. Furthermore, we need to showcase these rivers to demonstrate approaches to conservation that can be used in salmon rivers everywhere.

Our network of North Pacific wild salmon rivers will establish a critical foundation for the long-term survival of wild salmon, focus and coordinate human and economic resources on priority sites, and support a scientifically validated means of measuring the success and effectiveness of North Pacific-wide salmon conservation efforts.

Taking a long-term view of conservation potential, we steadfastly maintain a panoramic vision of one

interconnected North Pacific ecosystem, its major landscapes, and its critical basins. While idealism guides our work, science and realism drive it. We are strategic and pragmatic about the initiatives we engage in. Each potential conservation site is unique and comes with its own set of ecological, social, political, and economic challenges. We work closely with our partners to take these factors into account and develop strategies to fit local realities.

In working towards our goal of protecting the wild salmon ecosystems and biodiversity of the North Pacific, we

- prioritize river basins by conducting thorough assessments of their ecological significance, including salmon productivity, biodiversity, the presence of rare or unique species, threats to the watershed, commitment of local partners, and political conditions;
- improve ecological understanding of salmonid systems through rigorous research and monitoring, and communicate scientific findings to an international audience;
- create coalitions with local partners to protect priority sites; mechanisms include official protected area designation, strengthening public resource management policy, and promoting conservation ownership in local communities;
- promote sustainable economic development in priority areas;
- build and strengthen local organizations needed for long-term salmon conservation, management, and stewardship;
- continuously improve conservation actions through evaluation and adaptive management.

MIKHAIL SKOPETS



The Wild Salmon Center
builds enduring relationships
and partnerships to achieve
its conservation goals.

Partners in 2003–2004 include:

Audubon Society of Portland
Coast Range Association
The Conservation Fund
Conservation International
DVS-Tours (Magadan)
Ecodal (Khabarovsk)
Flathead Lake Biological Station (University of Montana)
Global Environment Facility
Hoh River Trust
Hoh Tribe
Interregional Association of Independent Tour Operators (IAITO)
Institute of Water and Ecological Problems (Khabarovsk)
ISAR-Far East (Vladivostok)
IUCN-The World Conservation Union
Kamchatka League of Independent Experts
KamchatNIRO
Khabarovsk Division TINRO
Khabarovsk Wildlife Foundation
Krechet (Khabarovsk)
Living Seas Coalition (Russia Far East)
Moscow State University
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
The North Umpqua Foundation
Olympic National Park
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Trout
Pacific Environment
Quileute Tribe
Russian Academy of Sciences and affiliated Institutes
Sakhalin Energy Investment Company
Sakhalin Wild Nature Fund
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SevostRybvod
Sierra Club
Trout Unlimited
United Nations Development Programme
USDA Forest Service
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Western Rivers Conservancy
Wild Fishes and Biodiversity Foundation, Kamchatka
World Wildlife Fund
Zov Taigi (Vladivostok)

The North Pacific Ecosystem

Science and conservation in priority water basins



Where salmon were once bountiful, from mountains to estuaries and into the waters of the North Pacific, today healthy populations are diminishing in number and in diversity. These remaining salmon populations face serious threats. The Wild Salmon Center identifies the most important places—the key river basins where salmon runs are robust, where biological diversity remains high, and where our scientific efforts and partnerships will have the greatest conservation impact.



NORTH AMERICA

THREATS

- habitat loss
- overharvest
- unsustainable natural resource extraction, including poor logging, mining, damming, agricultural, and hatchery practices

WILD SALMON CENTER ACTIVITIES

HABITAT

- seizing strategic, place-based conservation opportunities
- helping to establish local land trusts

POLICY

- promoting sustainable, science-based public resource management practices
- prioritizing ecosystem and biodiversity conservation

RESEARCH

- conducting smolt-to-spawner, whole-basin monitoring
- generating new knowledge for conservation

OUTREACH

- building public constituencies for long-term river protection
- raising the public profile for forest and river protection in response to unsustainable logging practices



Russia Far East & Kamchatka

The wild, braided rivers and productive floodplains of the Russian Far East represent the single best global opportunity to ensure the survival of wild salmon and their ecosystems. These exceptional salmon populations form the biological foundation for extraordinarily rich and complex food webs, deeply affecting human communities and economies.

Russia Far East Salmon Biodiversity Program

Despite their vital role in the Russian Far East, Pacific wild salmon face significant threats from damaging forestry practices, illegal fish harvest, and industrial development—including multibillion-dollar oil, gas, and mineral projects. In order to protect the full range of salmon biodiversity here, our strategies range from protected area designations to salmon-friendly sustainable development projects in priority river basins. We're leading the charge to protect the most ancient Pacific salmonids, the Sakhalin taimen. In the Samarga, we're working with a coalition of environmental groups to create a vast protected area and ensure proper management in advance of plans to log this two million-acre roadless basin. In 2004 we began work on our multi-stakeholder Sakhalin Salmon Initiative—the Russian Far East's most comprehensive public/private/NGO salmon conservation partnership, which will demonstrate the compatibility of sustainable salmon programs and natural resource exploration.

Kamchatka Salmon Biodiversity Program

The Kamchatka Peninsula provides spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for more than one quarter of the world's wild Pacific salmon. Russian, Japanese, and other Asian communities rely heavily on the economic benefits and food security provided by healthy Kamchatka salmon. Yet real threats—including an epidemic of salmon poaching, mining, and planned oil



ANDREI KLIMENKO

and gas development—increasingly undermine the integrity of these salmon runs. The Wild Salmon Center is building international interest and investment to support Russian efforts to protect this immense wilderness landscape.

In 2004 the Wild Salmon Center helped secure approval from the Kamchatka Governor for the half-million-acre Kol River Salmon Refuge, an extraordinary reservoir for salmon, trout, and char biodiversity and an international living laboratory for collaborative research. With Flathead Lake Biological Station and Moscow State University, our research—on salmon ecology and riverine interactions—will influence management decisions for years to come.

We're nurturing local partners, such as the Kamchatka Wild Fish and Biodiversity Foundation, to support these salmon rivers and working with agencies to promote conservation and develop sustainable salmon-based economic activity. At the Wild Salmon Center's initiative, the United Nations Development Programme partnered with the Global Environmental Facility to fund a multiyear Russian effort to conserve and sustain Kamchatka's wild salmon biodiversity.

PHOTO (ABOVE):
The Wild Salmon Center's newly built Kol River Salmon Refuge Biostation in southwest Kamchatka.

PHOTO (LEFT):
Kamchatka's rivers, including the Zhupanova, host seven species of migratory salmon—more than any other place on earth.

Cascadia

In the temperate rainforests of North America, we are working to protect the few wild salmon and steelhead strongholds that remain. Around these salmon streams south of Canada, the human population is doubling every forty years. Most wild salmon here are listed under the United States Endangered Species Act. By protecting the most productive, biologically diverse and abundant salmon ecosystems, we can demonstrate how local human communities can coexist with thriving wild salmon ecosystems.

The Wild Salmon Center is working to protect two regional strongholds where salmon and steelhead remain relatively robust: Washington's Olympic Peninsula and Oregon's Tillamook State Forest. The

rivers of the Olympic Peninsula connect salmon-rich watersheds descending from the glaciers of the Olympic National Park to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. One of the most important rivers of the area, the Hoh River, is home to world-class runs of winter steelhead, bull trout, and coho salmon, as well as chinook, pink, and chum salmon, cutthroat trout, and summer steelhead. We partnered with Western Rivers Conservancy to create the Hoh River Trust—now the river's largest private landowner. In 2004 we secured an anonymous \$1 million challenge grant inspiring the generosity of others who care deeply about the Olympic Peninsula.

In Oregon the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests comprise a half-million acres of mostly contiguous rainforest, which is threatened by aggressive logging. Bringing together diverse organizations concerned about the fate of these forests, the Wild Salmon Center created the Tillamook Rainforest Coalition, which in 2004 supported a ballot initiative proposing a balanced, economically and environmentally sound forest management plan. Although the initiative failed at the polls, our public education efforts made the Tillamook one of the state's most high-profile conservation areas and set the stage for protection of thousands of acres along five of Oregon's most important salmon rivers.





State of the Salmon

From Korea to California, we study and manage salmon in vastly different ways. The result: fragmented, disconnected information rather than synthesized knowledge. State of the Salmon is engaged in an unprecedented, scientifically rigorous effort to knit together these knowledge fragments, to create common standards and international partnerships across Pacific Rim nations that measure salmon status and trends. We're providing the foundation for an international salmon conservation strategy.

In 2003, with support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Wild Salmon Center and Ecotrust jointly launched State of the Salmon to improve salmon conservation and management across the North Pacific. Our leadership of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Salmonid Specialist Group is vital to these efforts, as we create a global network of salmon scientists, policy-makers, and organizational partners to advance our work to sustain wild salmon in perpetuity.

In 2005, to improve fishery management practices through market forces, State of the Salmon contributed

valuable information that influenced certification processes required to label salmon fisheries as sustainable. We convened a conference in Anchorage in April 2005 that brought together nearly two hundred specialists across many disciplines from around the Pacific Rim and inspired collaboration across multiple jurisdictions. Working with managers, scientists, and academics, we are also quantifying ecosystem services in order to assess the true economic value of healthy salmon fisheries on all sectors of society. These tools will also help us to prioritize investment efforts in important river basins.

PHOTO (ABOVE):
A snorkel survey at the Kol River Salmon Refuge Biostation documents passage of sockeye parr.

PHOTO (LEFT):
Soapstone Creek, a tributary of the Nehalem River in the Tillamook State Forest.



The Wild Salmon Center has been awarded The Independent Charities “Best in America” Seal of Excellence by the Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America. This signifies that, upon rigorous independent review, the organization met the highest standards of public accountability, as well as program and cost effectiveness. Of the 1 million charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this seal.



The Wild Salmon Center has received a four–star rating of excellence from Charity Navigator, which evaluates the financial health of 4,000 of America’s largest charities. Charity Navigator noted that, “The Wild Salmon Center has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in its efforts to manage and grow its finances in the most responsible way possible ... supporters can be assured that the Wild Salmon Center is worthy of their trust and commitment.”

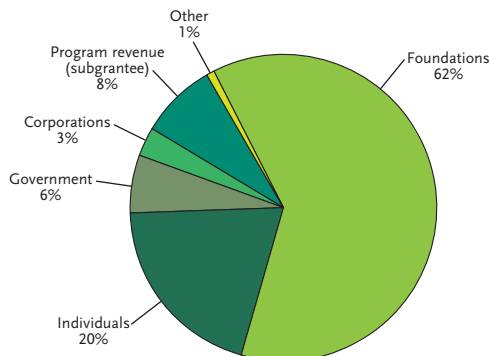
Statement of Activities

For the fiscal years ending
December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003

in thousands

	2004	2003
Revenue:		
Foundations	\$ 3,929	2,197
Individuals	1,128	603
Governments	355	81
Corporations	169	-
Investments and other income	52	26
Total operating revenue	5,633	2,907
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Cascadia Salmon Biodiversity Program	565	346
Tillamook Rainforest Coalition	825	336
Kamchatka Salmon Biodiversity Program	1,661	944
Russian Far East Salmon Biodiversity Program	271	265
State of the Salmon Program	574	195
Other programs	-	8
Management and General	632	442
Development	180	72
Total expenses and losses	4,708	2,608
Income from operating activities	925	299
Contributions for purchase of land	750	-
Change in net assets	1,675	299
Net assets at the beginning of the year	1,072	773
Net assets at the end of the year	\$ 2,747	1,072

FY 2004 Operating Revenue: \$5.6 Million



FY 2004 Total Expenses: \$4.7 Million

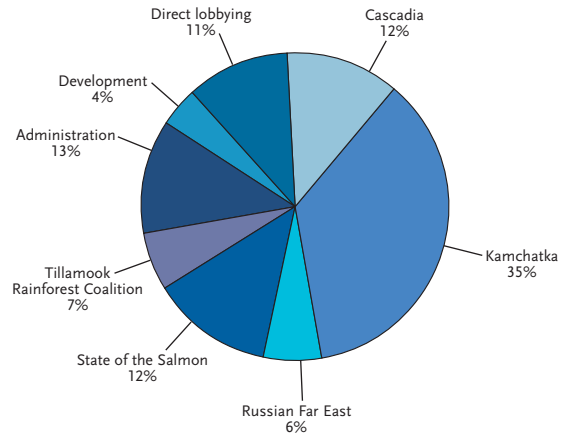


PHOTO:
The rivers of the Olympic Peninsula are some of the most important salmon habitat in the Lower 48.

JOHN MCMILLAN

Supporters

The Wild Salmon Center would like to acknowledge the following groups and individuals for their contributions. Without the generosity of our supporters, our work would not be possible.



Journalist Fen Montaigne joins Gordon Moore and Pic Walker during a visit to Kamchatka, Russia.

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Winter steelhead season on the Deschutes River with Peter Seligmann, Michael Keaton, Peter Brame, Guido Rahr, Spencer Beebe, John Judy, and Michael Cooperman.

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ANGELA OWEN

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 Representative and Wild
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FRONT COVER:

The cover is a composite of two pictures: the landscape, a stretch along the Nehalem River in Oregon's Tillamook State Forest (photo by Dave Moskowitz); the fish, sockeye salmon in Gates Creek in British Columbia (photo by Barrie Kovish).

BACK COVER:

Amur River, Russian Far East (photo by Mikhail Skopets).

REPORT:

Design by Bryan Potter Design.

We deeply regret any errors or omissions. Please notify us at 503.222.1804.

WILD SALMON CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wild Salmon Center is to identify, understand, and protect the best wild salmon ecosystems of the Pacific Rim. We devise and implement practical strategies, based on the best science, to protect forever these extraordinary places and their biodiversity.



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