



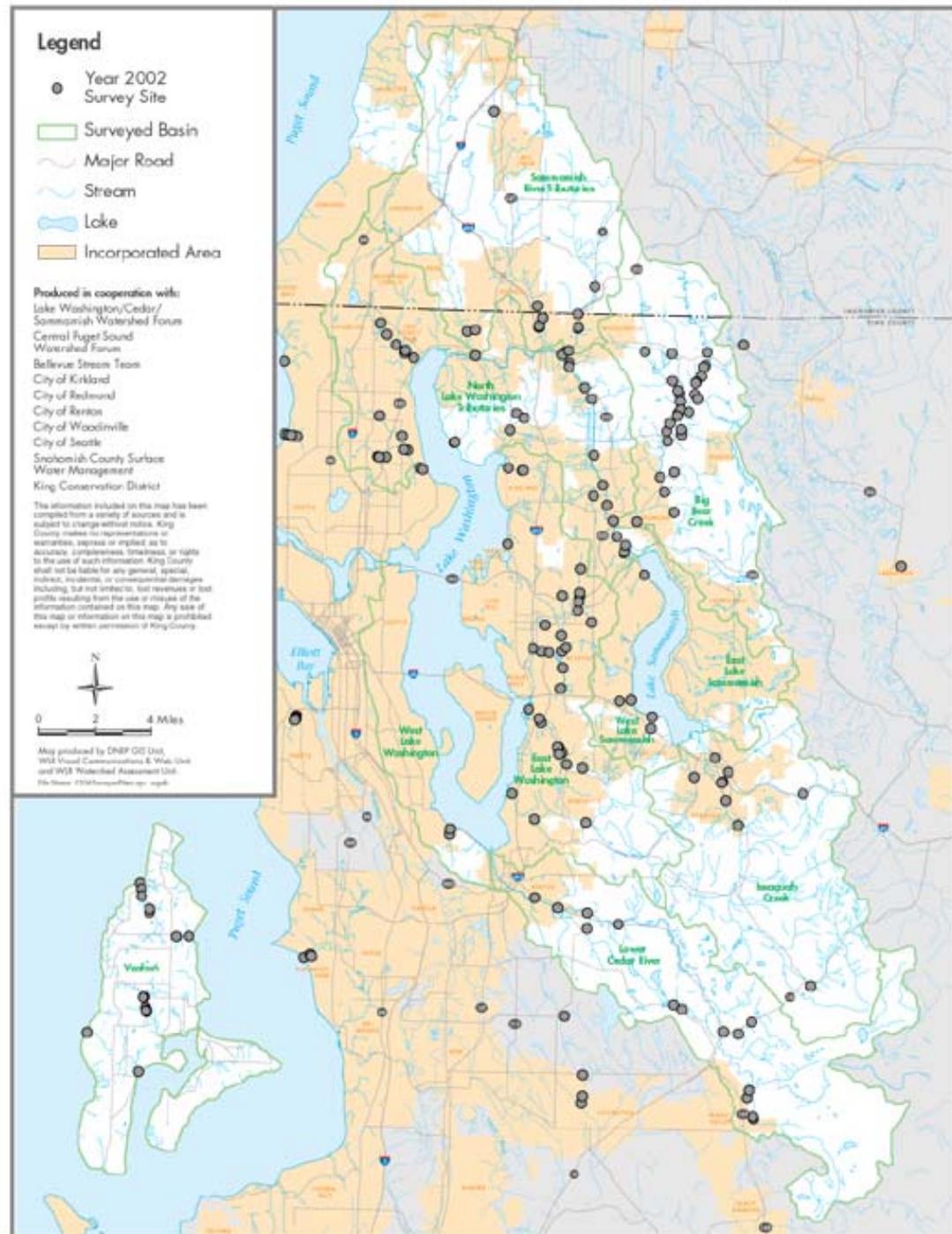
Salmon Watcher Program: Volunteer Monitoring for Fish Presence and Distribution

Presented by Jennifer Vanderhoof, Ecologist
& Technical Lead for Salmon Watcher

Program History

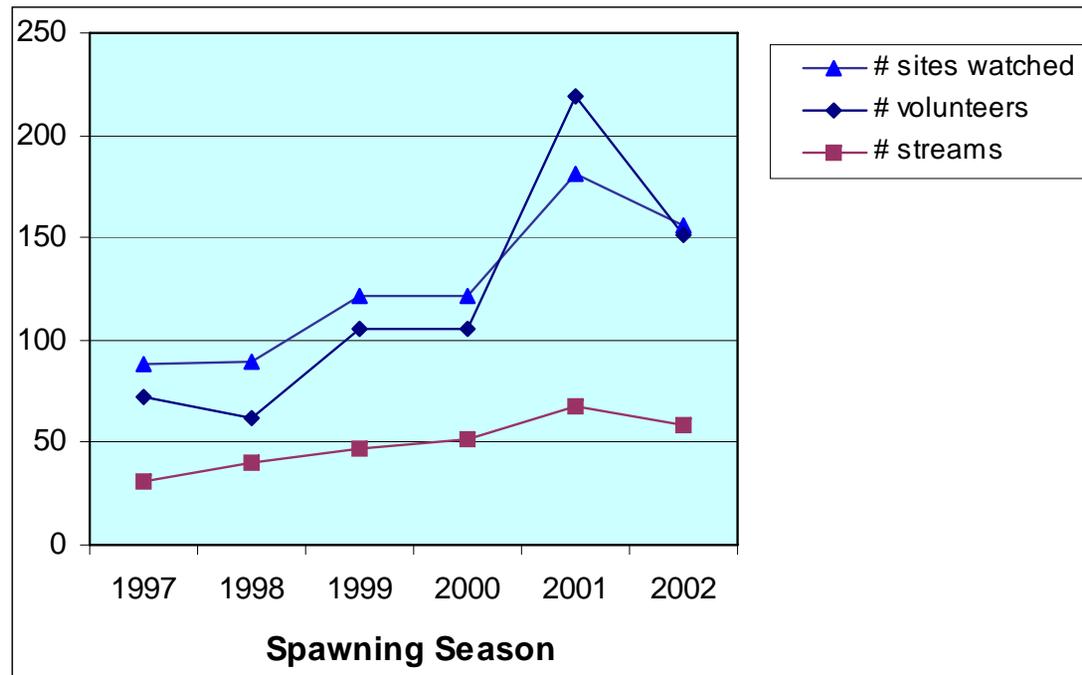
- Began 1996; we are now in our 8th season
- Multi-jurisdictional volunteer program:
 - Original partners included Bellevue, WDFW, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
 - Current partners include Bellevue Stream Team, Snohomish County, & Cities of Seattle, Redmond, Renton, Woodinville, Kirkland, and Bothell.

Study Area

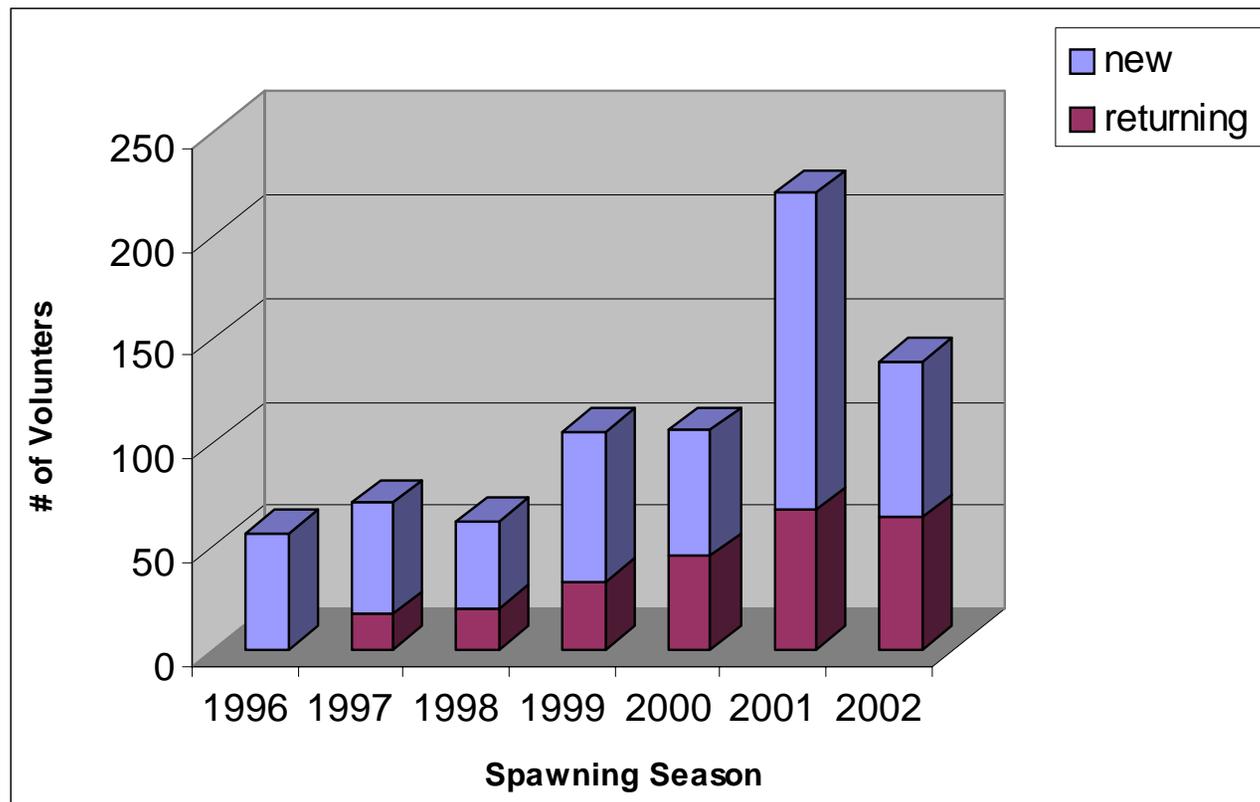


2002 stats

Area	# sites	# streams	# volunteers
Lake Washington Watershed	139	52	132
Vashon Island	17	6	19
Seattle	9	2	13
Other	10	6	7
Total	175	66	171



1996 - 2002 new vs. returning vols



Volunteer Training

- Train volunteers in September on salmon identification and filling out data forms
- Slide show typically hosted by a fish biologist
- They receive a packet that includes additional identification materials
- More fish ID materials posted online

Data Collection

- Assigned one or more site on a stream
- Stationary observations
- Site visits encouraged 2^{ce}/week, September through December
- Polarizing glasses
- Adult spawner data: species identification or “unid” and quantity of each
- Juveniles, # citizen contacts, anything unusual

QA/QC

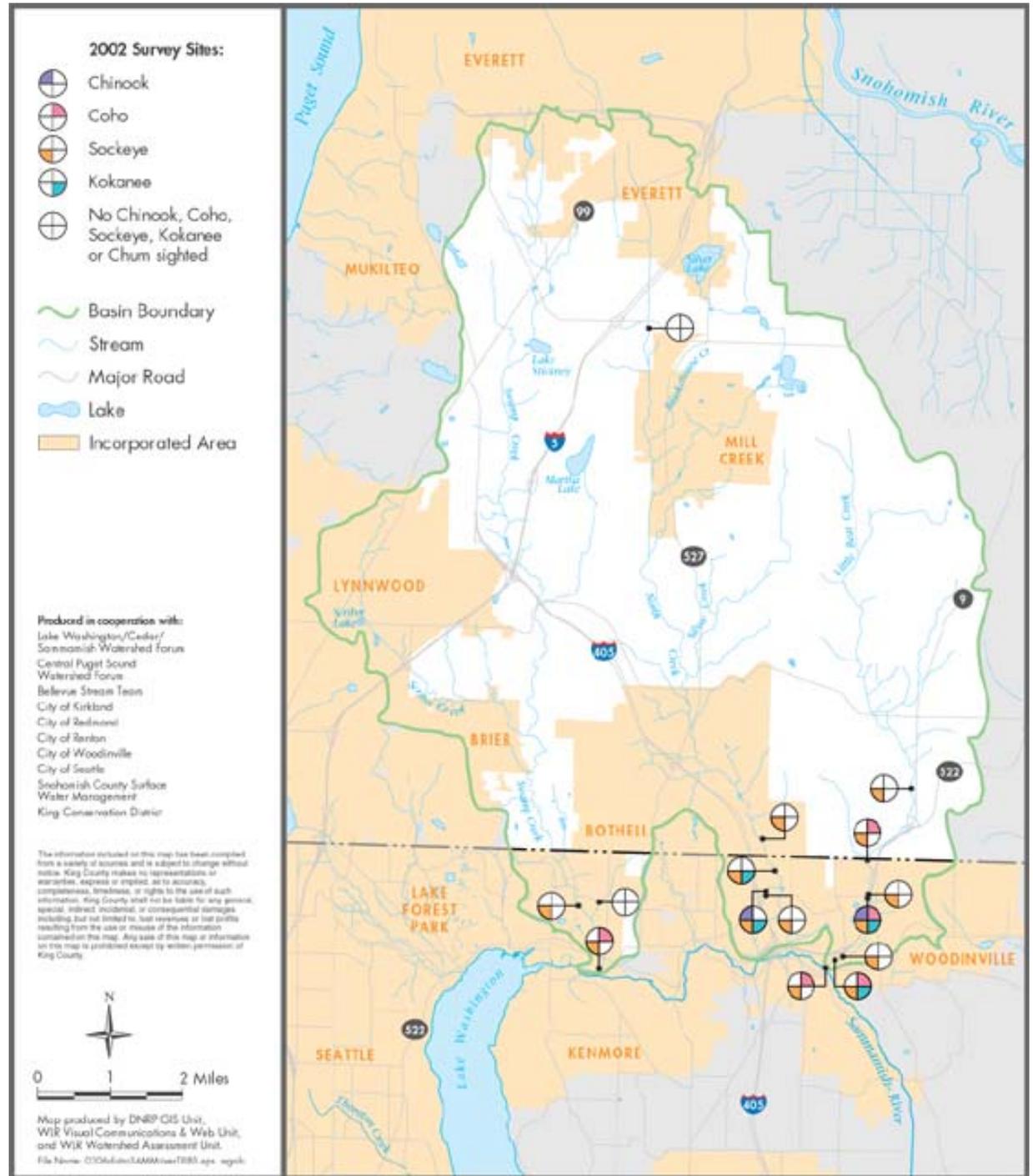
Quality Assurance

- volunteers trained by fish biologists
- returning or newly trained volunteers
- fish identification materials
- contact persons available to answer questions
- data sheets screened for unusual fish sightings
- First Fish ID Forms

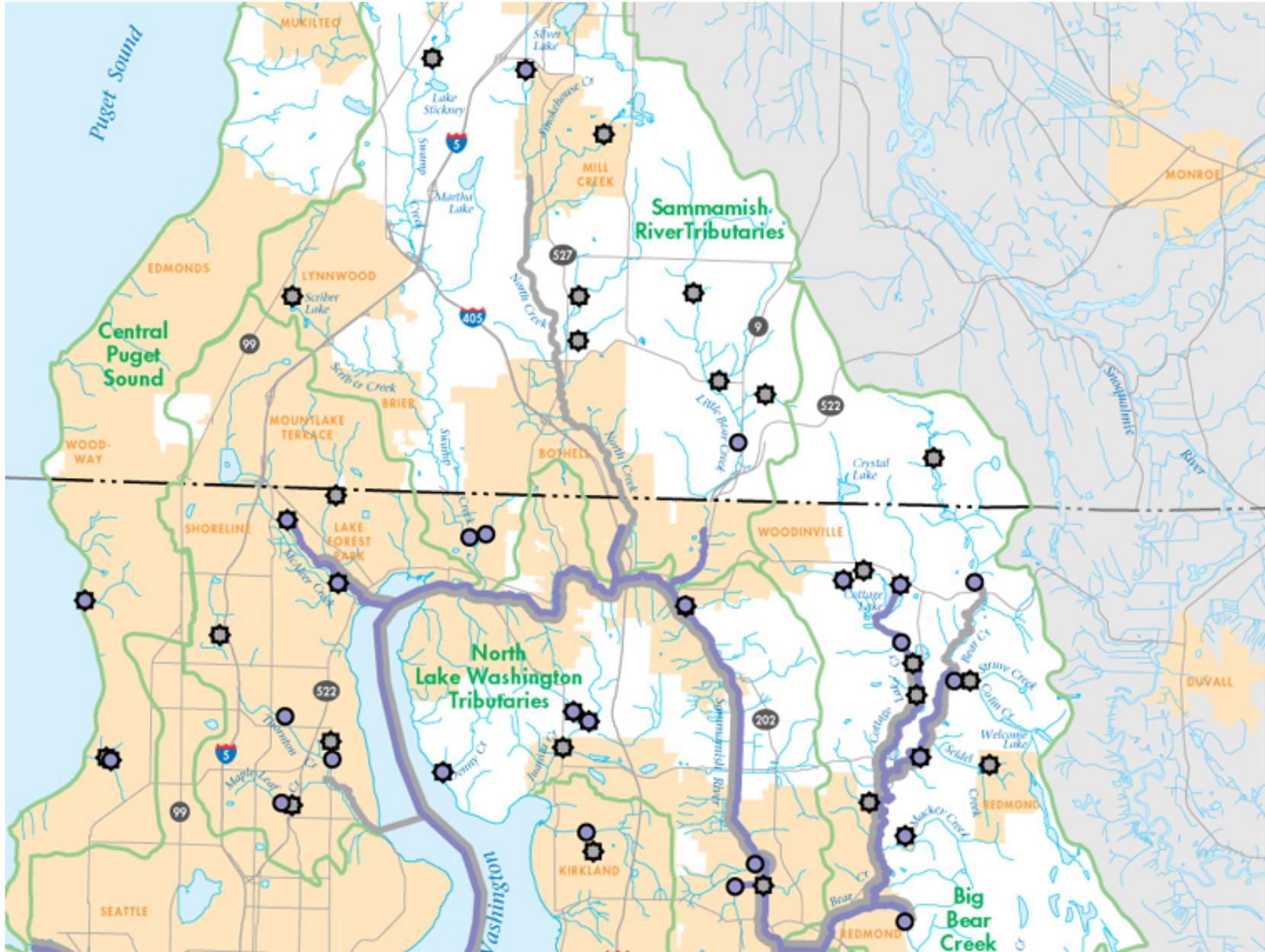
Quality Control

- data verified twice by different agency staff

Annual Report



Example: Chinook Distribution



Uses of the Data

Despite “volunteer caveats”...data are used by agencies, non-profits, and citizens:

- to identify fish streams
- to estimate spawner timing
- to determine passage barriers
- to help define distribution
- to check for presence at streams with CIP projects
- for public education
- to help focus areas for professional surveys
- to help focus habitat improvement projects

Acknowledgements

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