

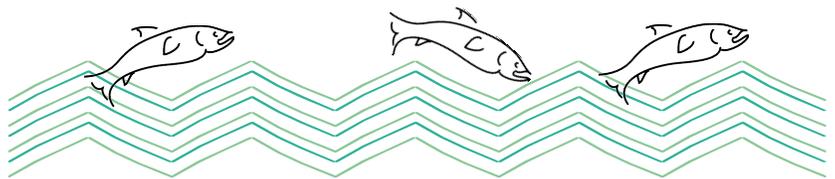
Patrolman Jack Lacey of FishWatch Protects Migrating Chinook

When retired state trooper Jack Lacey found he couldn't stay away from law enforcement, he discovered a new purpose as a Forest Protection Officer for the Umpqua FishWatch. Now at age 67, he has been patrolling the Tiller Ranger District of Oregon's Umpqua National Forest since 2002, educating the public about the proper use and enjoyment of forest resources and protecting spawning spring Chinook salmon from poachers.

Though he does issue citations when people clearly and knowingly break laws designed to protect the fish and their habitat, Lacey sees his role as more of an opportunity to educate the public about forest law and "encourage responsible use." He explained that his presence is a strong deterrent to the temptation for visitors to poach.



FishWatch patrolman Jack Lacey explains his duties while visitors enjoy the South Umpqua Falls.



Often the improvised fishing equipment Lacey finds is simply a few cooking tools that have been hastily tied or taped together. In these cases, Lacey says, campers make impromptu decisions to attempt spear fishing because "they see a big fish in the river, and they can't resist the temptation to try to catch it." Others come better equipped, and few anglers can honestly claim they didn't notice the new "no fishing" signs, which are very effective.

Funding By Year

2006:	\$33,795
2007:	\$31,111
2008:	\$39,375
2009:	\$40,000
2010:	\$44,444
2011:	\$45,000
2012:	\$40,000

On rare occasions, some poachers use even more extreme methods. In the summer of 1992, a poacher used dynamite to detonate a deep pool where a large number of spring Chinook were sheltering. The explosion killed nearly half of the yearly spawning population before they reproduced.

It was this loss that eventually led to the decision to form the Umpqua FishWatch program, which seeks to protect migratory fish and their habitat through a combination of public outreach and law enforcement.

Funded by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act under Title II, the Fish-Watch project for which Lacey now works is one of many whose purpose is to strengthen regional economies by hiring local people to work on projects that improve public lands.

Although fishing is legal on some parts of the South Umpqua, the entire river system becomes protected habitat upstream of the intersection with Jackson Creek. Lacey explained that this is important in order to protect the fish's migrating and spawning activities. "They're very sensitive, and [human commotion] scares them off," he said. Even legal recreation such as swimming can disturb the fish, so Lacey tries to educate visitors and discourage them from splashing and jumping into pools when fish are present.

During migration times and the high-use recreation months, Lacey works full-time as a patrolman based out of Tiller. He says that the added income is a valuable supplement to his retirement benefits, but it wasn't why he took the job. "I really love what I do," he said. "There's no place I'd rather be."



Jack Lacey observes visitors from the walkway of the South Umpqua Falls Fish Ladder.

Project Stats: Umpqua Fish Watch

2012 funding:	\$40,000
Total funding:	\$273,725
Employs:	Jack Lacey other officers as needed
Project:	Forest Health Imprvmnt.
Years awarded:	2006—2012



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Secure Rural Schools
And Community
Self-Determination Act

Fish graphic by Linda Causey (www.aperfectworld.org).
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