How successful has the Endorsement Program been?

From 2010 to 2017, more than 1.6 million endorsements have been sold generating over $12.1 million in revenue. The CRSSE funds a variety of salmon and steelhead fisheries related projects including:

- Annual creel surveys for spring, summer, fall Chinook, sockeye, coho, and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers and several tributaries
  - Expanded spring and summer Chinook fishing in the Wenatchee River
  - Expanded steelhead fishing in the Hanford Reach
  - Expanded spring Chinook fishing in the Snake River
- Annual enforcement of salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia and Snake rivers and their tributaries
- Cowlitz and Yakima rivers hooking mortality studies
- Development of a real-time summer steelhead escapement estimator using PIT tags in the upper Columbia River
- Genetic analysis of summer steelhead in the Snake River
- Funding partner for the Cowlitz River adult management weirs
- Public access enhancement in the lower Columbia River
- Purchase of a public access on the Methow River

For more information see:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/crss_endorsement/

Produced by the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program

Providing support for continued and expanded recreational salmon and steelhead fishing opportunities in the Columbia River Basin

Administered by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife in collaboration with the Columbia River Recreational Salmon and Steelhead Anglers Board

July 2018
Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE)

WHAT: The CRSSE is an annual requirement, in addition to a fishing license, for Washington recreational anglers age 15 and older who fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

HOW MUCH: The cost of the CRSSE (without dealer fees) is $8.75 for resident and non-resident adults 16 years and older and $7.10 for 15-year-olds and resident seniors (70 years and older).

WHEN: The CRSSE was authorized by Senate Bill 5421 during the 2009 Legislative session and officially took effect April, 2010. The idea of CRSSE was a grassroots effort by upper Columbia River salmon and steelhead anglers. Loss of federal funding to monitor salmon and steelhead fisheries threatened WDFW’s ability to keep these popular fisheries open.

WHY: Funds generated from the endorsement fee are needed to maintain and improve recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia River and its tributaries. It supports management activities required to allow some fisheries where impacts to protected fish are strictly regulated. These activities include recreational fishery monitoring, salmon and steelhead research, Endangered Species Act permitting and reporting, access enhancement, and enforcement. Without CRSSE, many popular salmon and steelhead fisheries would be very limited or not possible at all.

WHERE: The CRSSE is required when fishing for salmon and steelhead on more than 50 rivers, lakes and other waters in the Columbia River Basin (see list). Like fishing licenses, the endorsement can be purchased at more than 600 WDFW license dealers throughout the state (locations available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/index.html) or online at https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/.

WHO: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) administers the CRSSSE program in collaboration with the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Recreational Angler Board, made up of six to ten volunteer advisors. These advisors are appointed by the WDFW Director, representing the four WDFW jurisdictional regions – Eastern (1), Northcentral (2), Southcentral (3), and Southwest (5) – which make up the Columbia River Basin.

Waters where Endorsement is required:
Mainstem Columbia River from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to Chief Joseph Dam
Mainstem Snake River from mouth in Walla Walla County to Oregon state line in Asotin County

Asotin County
Grande Ronde River

Benton, Yakima, Kittitas Counties
Yakima River

Chelan County
Chelan River
Entiat River
Icicle River
Lake Wenatchee
Wenatchee River

Clark County
Camas Slough
Cedar Creek
Lewis River, East Fork
Little Washougal
Salmon Creek
Washougal River
Washougal River West (North) Fork
Lewis River
Lewis River, North Fork

Columbia County
Tucannon River
Touchet River

Cowlitz County
Abernathy Creek
Coal Creek
Coweeeman River
Cowlitz River
Germany Creek
Gobar Creek
Green River
Kalama River
Toutle River
Toutle River, North Fork
Toutle River, South Fork
Lewis River
Lewis River, North Fork

Garfield County
Tucannon River

Klickitat County
Klickitat River
White Salmon River

Lewis County
Blue Creek
Cispus River
Cowlitz River
Mayfield Lake
Mill Creek
Lacamas Creek
Lake Scanewa
Olequa Creek
Tilton River
Tilton River, East Fork
Tilton River, North Fork
Tilton River, South Fork
Tilton River, West Fork

Okanogan County
Lake Osoyoos
Methow River
Okanogan River
Similkameen River

Skamania County
Drano Lake
Hamilton Creek
Rock Creek
Wind River
White Salmon River

Wahkiakum County
Deep River
Elochoman River
Grays River
Grays River, East Fork
Grays River, West Fork
Skamokawa Creek

Walla Walla County
Mill Creek
Touchet River
Walla Walla River

Whitman County
Palouse River (below the falls)