THEME:	**Creek Habitat and Salmon Enhancement**
SCOPE & SEQUENCE UNIT:	**Creek Rehabilitation**
OBJECTIVE:	**Hands-on work for habitat enhancement**
ACTIVITY:	**Pull invasive plants, place gravel in the creek bed**

Notes:	Outside
Teacher Prep.:	contact a local salmon enhancement organization or Fisheries and Oceans to find helpful personnel who will work with a class of students to rehabilitate a creek or river for fish. Organize a date for this person to meet the students by the creek, tell them about the creek, and offer materials for creek rehabilitation. Our local salmon enhancement organization left us with gravel and buckets and some shovels to move gravel into the creek bed for salmon redds. Students also pulled invasive plants from the creekside at the official's suggestion.
Time:	45 minutes, plus travel time to and from creek NOTE: you may find the students keen to spend another session at the creek doing hands-on work

Skills:

- Collaboration, teamwork, leadership
- Global, local & cross-cultural understanding

Objectives:

- To learn what creek habitat fish (salmon) need
- To volunteer for the betterment of wildlife habitat and the community (service learning)

Background Information:

Creek habitat is a dynamic place of change. Often the change comes as a result of human activities. Sedimentation in the creek, caused by large runoff of soils can cover the creek gravels and make them unavailable to spawning salmon. (Sedimentation can cause a suite of issues in a creek including burying incubating eggs and young alevins). On the creek banks or in the shallows, invasive plants may outcompete native plants and crowd them out.

Vocabulary:

Redd: a gravel area in the creek bottom where a salmon lies her eggs, a salmon nest
Invasive plant: a plant that has been introduced to an area/region that has an adverse or negative impact on the local natural flora and habitat
Gravel: smaller than boulders or medium sized rocks, bigger than sand
Sedimentation: the deposit of sediments; sediments are materials (organic or inorganic), such as rock, soil, dead plant matter, that settle to the bottom of the creek (lake or ocean).

Materials:

Work gloves, shovels, small ice-cream buckets.

Introductory Discussion:

What characteristics of a creek make it good fish habitat? What do fish need in their creek habitat? What would interrupt or change the fish habitat? When do salmon use the creek? How can we help keep the creek habitat good fish habitat?

Reflection Discussion:

How do you feel after this work in the creek habitat?