

# Restoring Salmon and Steelhead Habitat at Fisher's Bend

## The Clackamas Watershed

Welcome to Fisher's Bend, a site along the lower Clackamas River between river mile 11.1 and 11.8. The Clackamas River Basin encompasses 900 square miles, and is an important player for anadromous fish and other natural resources within the greater Columbia River Basin. The Clackamas River supplies high-quality drinking water to over 10% of Oregon's population, and supports significant wild runs of anadromous salmon while supporting thriving agriculture and recreation. The lower Clackamas has been a hotbed of activity for centuries. From time immemorial, the Chinookan tribes, referred to as the Clackamas People, have called this area home, catching year-round runs of salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey, among others.



## Connectivity Counts

Prior to restoration efforts in 2015, Fisher's Bend was an isolated side channel cut off from the mainstem except during very high flows. Alcove enhancements completed during Phase I reconnected the mainstem of the Clackamas to the floodplain, restoring critical habitat diversity. Phase II increased these enhancements by reconnecting the historic side channel upstream of the alcove for an additional 2,350 feet of off channel habitat during high flows.



## Side Channel Enhancements

Large wood structures and boulders are strategically placed throughout the side channel to enhance habitat complexity. These features disperse flows and promote pooling. Invasive plant removal and revegetation of native plants in the riparian zone around the side channel offer additional shade, soil stability, runoff filtration and habitat diversity. In total, 4.5 acres of habitat have been restored with this project.



## Salmon Stronghold

The Clackamas watershed is salmon country, home to Chinook, coho, and steelhead. Salmon are anadromous. They are born in fresh water, migrate to the ocean, and return to the stream where they hatched to spawn. After spawning they die, leaving behind their nutrient-rich carcasses to not only nourish their young, but also support 137 other wildlife species that depend on them as a food source. The Clackamas is home to one of the last two remaining wild late fall Coho runs in the lower Columbia Basin. This run, part of the Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon ESU ("Evolutionarily Significant Unit"), was federally listed as "Threatened" in 2005.



## What Can You Do?

**Conserve water** — use only what you need  
**Protect fish** — keep waterways chemical free  
**Plant natives** — improve habitat for wildlife  
**Stash the Trash** — take out what you take in

