

Restoring Salmon and Steelhead Habitat at Fisher's Bend

The Clackamas Watershed

Welcome to Fisher's Bend, a site along the lower Clackamas River at river mile 11.1. 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.



Off-Channel Habitat

The lower Clackamas River is used as a migration corridor and rearing habitat by salmon and steelhead, but because of extensive loss of historic habitat, the river is a high priority target for restoration. Side channels are vital refuge and rearing habitat for threatened juvenile salmonids at critical life stages in their life cycle. At Fisher's Bend, this riparian habitat had been isolated from the main stem of the river, except in very high flows. Habitat diversity was minimal due to the loss of large wood in the channel and minimal native plants.



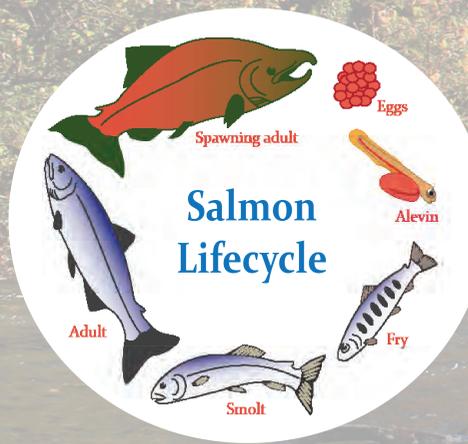
Alcove Enhancements

In order to reconnect the main stem to the floodplain, approximately 970 linear feet of off-channel habitat was constructed. Large wood debris was installed to create sheltered habitat within the channel, and invasive weeds were replaced with native trees and shrubs for greater diversity and ecosystem health.



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

