

North Santiam Headwaters Hazards to Habitat - 2011

Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District



*Partnering
 with*



Focus watersheds:	North Santiam Headwaters	Forest Service Contribution:	\$ 40,000
Project Contact:	David Klug	Partner Contribution:	\$ 65,000
Phone/Email:	503-854-4216 dklug@fs.fed.us	Project Cost:	\$ 105,000
Accomplishments: 1 mile of river habitat restored 85 hazard trees removed and placed instream 35 large trees tipped for key pieces 5 Respect-The-River campsites improved		External Partners: North Santiam Watershed Council (\$55,000), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) (\$10,000) Marion County Sheriff's Department Internal Partners: Aquatics, Recreation and Public Affairs	

Project Objectives: To improve main and side channel habitat for spring Chinook salmon and resident trout in the North Santiam River. Remove hazard trees from the Highway 22 corridor, dispersed campsites, and a bridge pier and place the pieces instream for greater structural complexity.



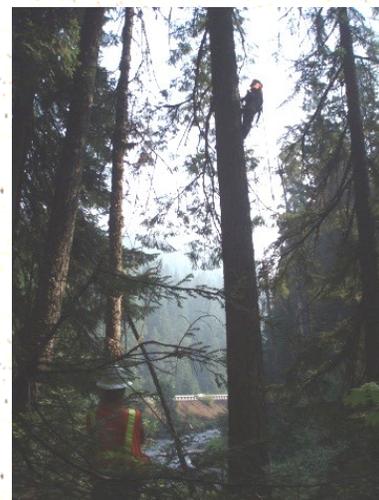
Increased habitat complexity benefits many aquatic species including spring Chinook salmon, resident rainbow trout, mountain whitefish and potential steelhead.

Complexes of large project wood now provide salmon and trout with increased hiding cover and protection needed to grow larger in a river corridor undergoing heavy fishing pressure.

Otherwise unfunded, the project eliminated 50 hazards from a busy state highway and from 5 dispersed campsites making the popular corridor a safer place for travel and recreation.

The Detroit Ranger District, the North Santiam Watershed Council and ODOT partnered to implement the North Santiam Headwaters Hazards to Habitat project, improving aquatic habitat in the river. ODOT fell hazard trees along Highway 22 and provided traffic control as needed while the contractor tipped large conifers and removed additional hazard trees. Aquatic Contracting pulled over large trees to serve as key pieces, moved additional logs from hazard removals and then placed them upstream of these key logs. The structures were placed to improve spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook salmon and resident trout. The project also improved dispersed campsites as part of the Respect-The-River program.

ODOT foreman coordinates traffic control as tree climber rigs leaning hazard tree to be tipped away from highway.





A log jam endangering a bridge pier was removed and then placed instream for additional habitat complexity at this improved dispersed site along the North Santiam Highway.

The next phases of the project are planting disturbed project sites, surveying salmonids using the log complexes, monitoring large wood movement by high flows and monitoring recreational use of the dispersed sites. Funding and volunteers are needed for snorkel surveys. Personnel from the Marion Forks Fish Hatchery and the Detroit Ranger District and volunteers from the Whitewater Creek Camp Conservation Association may continue a joint effort to evaluate the success of this and past project sites in the river system.

Future funding is needed to restore large woody material in several miles of the North Santiam River which still lacks large woody cover for aquatic species.



Hazard trees fell on the sides of the highway were woven into tipped conifers adjacent to a Respect-The-River dispersed site on the right.



Every spring the Forest Service partners with Marion County's Correction's Department to sweep boating hazards into the Log Corral at Detroit Flats in Detroit Lake. These logs provide the North Santiam Watershed Council and the Forest Service a source of large woody material for fish habitat improvement projects. Annual funding is needed to continue this part of the "From Hazards To Habitat" program.