



Willamette - River Forest Confluence Project

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The Lower Willamette Restoration Strategy is a strategy of four Watershed Councils and multiple public agencies to restore all the confluences and the one side channel in the Lower Willamette.

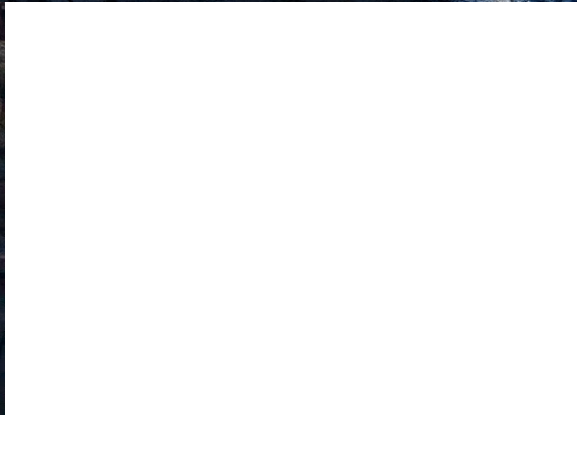
Ecological uplift:

- Rearing and migratory habitat
- Cold water refugia
- Upper Willamette Steelhead & Chinook
- Lower Columbia Steelhead, Coho, & Chinook

Priority strategy in multiple plans: DEQ, USGS, ODFW, BPA, Clackamas Partnership, North Clackamas Watershed Action Plan, NPPC, Oregon Conservation Strategy, Upper Willamette Conservation & Recovery Plan



Fish Salvage on August 28th





Weirs with habitat logs under construction



Engineered streambed material and roughened channel.





Complex log
jam at the
confluence





Construction done. Planting still to be complete:

- Willow stakes were installed during construction and banks were hydroseeded with native grass
- Shrubs and trees will be planted this winter

Total Cost: \$545,769

- Meyer Memorial Trust: \$200,000
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: \$239,300
- Oregon Department of State Lands: \$77,111
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund: \$10,000
- Oak Lodge Water Services (Revegetation): \$21,000 (inc. SEP)

Challenges

- Complex Willamette River hydraulics and tidal flows
- Permitting timelines
- Landowner relations
- Multiple funding sources to account for construction inflation
- People management during construction

Keys to Success & Future Projects

- Move to a 3 year project management cycle to allow for permitting timelines and outreach
- Storytelling to show ecological uplift, especially for hard-to-access projects
- Intensive people management

Next up:

- Elk Rock Island Side Channel (2026)
- Willamette River - Boardman Creek Confluence (new landowners)
- Boardman - Arista Floodplain Alternatives (OLWS/CCDTD)