

# Rock Creek Fish Habitat

This project takes place in Rock Creek, the largest subbasin draining the east slope of Marys Peak into the Marys River basin. The Marys River Watershed Council has identified the Rock Creek subbasin as a high priority for restoration of fish passage and habitat.

Recent assessments by the US Forest Service Watershed Assessment and the City of Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan have both indicated that access to high quality cold water refugia limits the proper function of habitat for native Cutthroat trout in this watershed. Upstream temperature dependant migrations of both adults and juveniles were truncated at two water intake dams and at four perched culverts. In addition, mainstem temperatures are elevated, partially because of a lack of bedload to cover long reaches of bedrock exposed to solar influence. This condition exacerbates mainstem temperatures already elevated from low flows created by municipal withdrawals.



In 2008, to provide access to 8 miles of cold water habitats for spawning and upstream temperature dependent migrations, four culverts were replaced on Rock Creek tributaries and fish ladders were constructed on two City water intake structures on Griffith Creek and South Fork Rock Creek. Large wood was placed by helicopter at 19 sites to improve in-stream habitat and accumulate gravels over exposed bedrock.

The restoration prescriptions included in this project were identified and prioritized in both the US Forest Service Watershed Assessment and the City of Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan.

**Project partners:** City of Corvallis, Marys River Watershed Council, Marys Peak Stewardship Group, Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service, & Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

**Total Project Funding:** \$681,187 cash, plus \$110,140 in-kind

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board \$447,791 cash

City of Corvallis \$130,000 cash and \$6,040 in-kind

Siuslaw Stewardship Group (USFS) \$60,000 cash

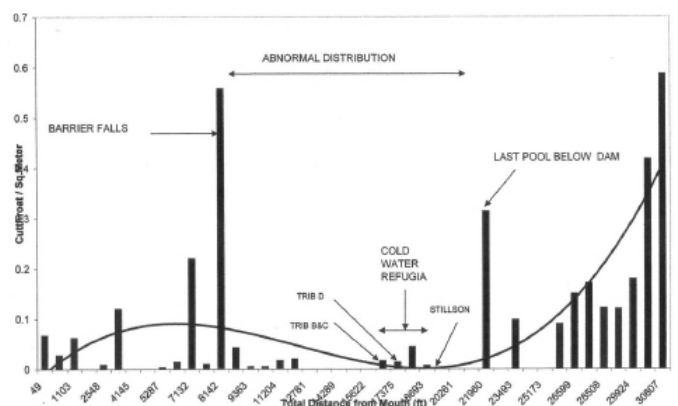
US Forest Service \$94,100 in-kind

Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife \$106,218 cash



before

FIGURE 1  
Rock Cr Cutthroat Density May 2006



News article links:

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