

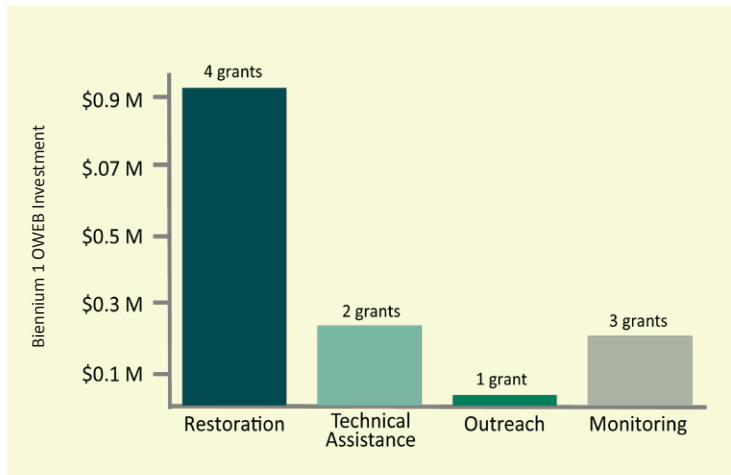


UPPER GRANDE RONDE INITIATIVE



The Upper Grande Ronde Partnership is focusing restoration on 11 prioritized reaches of the upper Grande Ronde sub-basin, which includes sections of the Grande Ronde River, Catherine Creek, and several tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Willowa River. Since the late 1800s, poorly-managed logging and grazing, road and railroad construction, urbanization, and irrigation withdrawals degraded streams and reduced fish habitat. There are lower late-season flows and stream temperatures are warmer. These conditions threaten native fish species, including steelhead and salmon.

Funding



OWEB awarded \$1,431,723 in funding that leveraged \$2,753,272 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Improved understanding of how restoration actions impact steelhead and salmon in northeastern Oregon
- Organized approach among diverse partners to develop complex engineering designs
- Enhanced fish habitat through instream and floodplain projects
- Improved passage at diversion dams and culvert replacement that expands or improves access to habitats
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes
- Engaged landowners, students and civic groups on the actions needed to restore habitat for native fish

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant to the Upper Grande Ronde Partnership. This report documents progress made from 2016 to 2017 to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger, on-going collaborative effort of Bonneville Power Administration, federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations.



Goal

Increased habitat quantity, quality, and diversity for all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species in Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River

Strategies

- Remove barriers and create additional aquatic habitat
- Restore flow during critical periods
- Restore natural habitat complexity and processes
- Conduct monitoring studies to fill knowledge gaps on juvenile salmon mortality and riparian restoration effectiveness
- Inform, educate, and engage relevant landowners and residents

Implementation Actions (2016-17)

Restoration

174
POOLS



30
MILES of FENCE



3

CULVERTS



3.5

MILES of NEW CHANNEL



450

LARGE WOODY DEBRIS STRUCTURES



5
MILES of NEW FENCE



123
ACRES



Scientific Investigation

11
RIVER MILES



3

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS



1

INVESTIGATION



2

PIT* TAG ARRAYS



*passive integrated transponder

Outreach & Engagement

14

LANDOWNERS



22

PRESENTATIONS

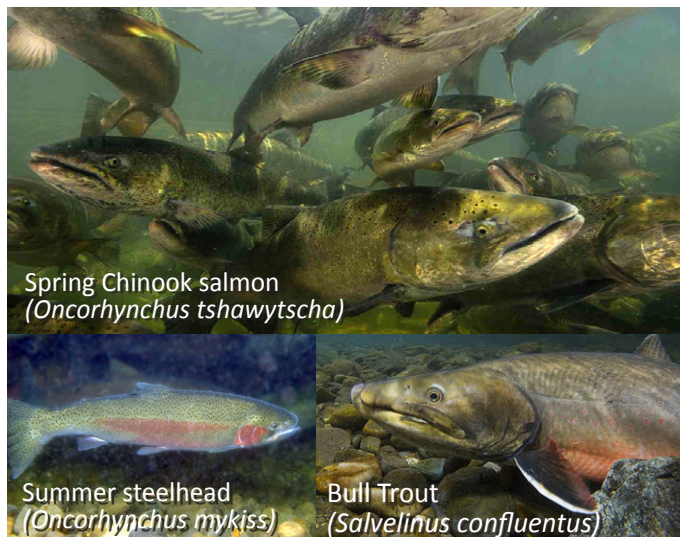


Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

- Access to aquatic habitats is increased
- Floodplain is reconnected to stream system
- Increased instream complexity
- Late season flow is increased

Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

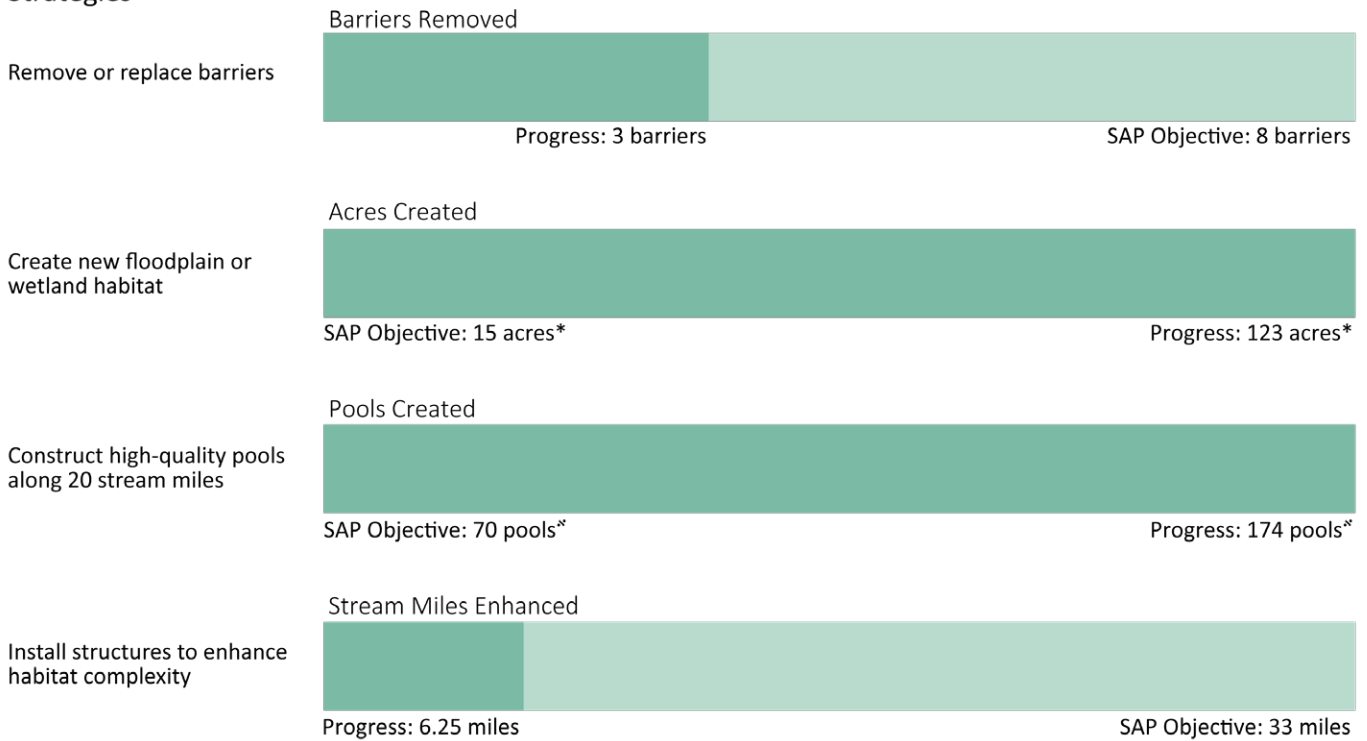
- Distribution of salmon increases in watershed
- Improved channel structure and processes to maintain habitat
- Spawning habitat and streamside plantings improve
- Summer stream temperatures decrease
- Productivity of salmonid species improves



The upper Grande Ronde River supports populations of Endangered Species Act-listed fish species. Photos by ODFW and USFWS.

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1

Strategies



*The objective of 15 acres was exceeded by over 800%.

*The objective of 70 pools was exceeded by nearly 250%.

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Evaluates restoration techniques to make future projects more effective through adaptive management
- Improves knowledge of factors affecting salmon survival rates to prioritize projects
- Collects data on a consistent set of ecological metrics paired with snorkel surveys to measure restoration outcomes



Grande Ronde Model Watershed staff measure streamflow on Limber Jim Creek. Monitoring investigates how streamflow timing and quantity may change as a result of large wood additions aimed at reconnecting the floodplain.

Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration	Monitoring	Engagement		
Challenges	Meeting National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 requirements may require an additional 1-2 years of planning.	There was an initial lack of capacity to fund technical engineering designs, which caused delays.	Finding capacity to analyze monitoring data and ensure information is properly shared and incorporated into future planning is a challenge.	There is uncertainty around securing funding to do repeat habitat and snorkel surveys.	Partners within a FIP are dynamic. Changes have occurred in core partners as well as the larger implementation partnership.
Lessons Learned	Cultural resource surveys require frequent or consistent coordination to proceed in a timely manner.	The flexibility of the FIP program enabled the partnership to direct funds where they are most needed.	There is a need to better coordinate monitoring efforts among partners.	Life Cycle Models could be useful for planning restoration with maximum impact for salmon.	When planning projects, budget time to discuss them and align focus among new funders and partners.
Adaptations	Partners were supported with training and funding for cultural resource surveys to keep projects moving forward.	Partners worked together to leverage Technical Assistance (TA) matching grants in Biennium 1. A plan is in place for additional TA in the next biennium.	The timeline and budget were increased for the Catherine Creek Hall Ranch Project to expand project scope and fish benefit.	A monitoring coordinator was hired to assist the partnership in working as a team and minimize redundancies in monitoring efforts.	Developing clear project goals and objectives through communication and trusting relationships supported project prioritization.



Before restoration at Dry Creek, the stream banks were incised and the floodplain was less than one acre. The Union Soil and Water Conservation District worked with a private landowner to restore the creek's sinuosity and floodplain, doubling it in size. The stream habitat was further enhanced by placing 280 large trees and 600 pieces of wood and planting more than 5,000 native plants.