



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Roy Creek Fish Passage Project, Nehalem, Oregon

Roy Creek, a Lower Nehalem River tributary, had nearly three miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for Coho, steelhead, Chinook, chum, anadromous coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific and western brook lamprey that was blocked at the mouth by a culvert crossing under Foss Road and the Port of Tillamook Railroad. Addressing this fish passage barrier was challenging, given that the culverts were 80' long and had to meet both county highway standards, the structural requirements for the railroad, and federal fish passage standards which necessitated a 36 foot wide bridge.



Figure 1. The Foss Road Culverts: impediments to fish movement.

Strong Partnership -- However, a strong partnership between local, municipal, state, and federal partners ensured that this project was designed, funded and implemented. This barrier was rated as a high priority for fish passage by resource agencies for the benefits for spawning and rearing Coho. The blockage location, at the confluence of the Nehalem River and Roy Creek impeded both key spawning and winter refugia opportunities. In 2007, the Port of Tillamook railroad line was disabled due to a big storm event which limited its operations. This created a window of opportunity to lessen the already expensive construction costs if the project could be designed and implemented while the railway was in limited operation.

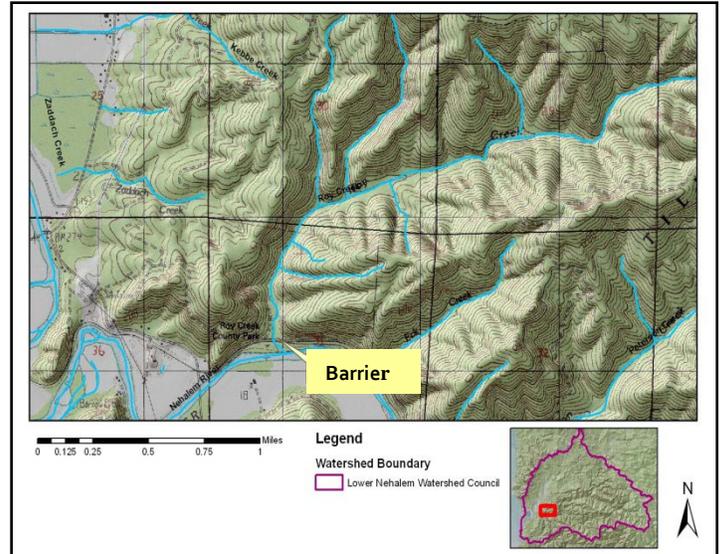


Figure 2. Location of the Foss Road Barrier on Roy Creek.

Tillamook County, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, private landowners, USFWS, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ODFW, Port of Tillamook Railroad, NOAA Restoration Center and American Rivers, and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation teamed expertise and funding resources to make this valuable stream project happen.



Figure 3. Completed 36-foot wide bridge will allow flow conveyance, aquatic species movement, and meets county road and railway specifications.



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