



Return to the Blue Pacific

Jackson Creek Restoration



Popular Cape Lookout State Park, southeast of Tillamook, Oregon, is the picturesque site where Jackson Creek flows freely into Netarts Bay. After years of a failed diversion project that was harmful to salmon and inconvenient to park visitors, the creek is now restored to its natural channel.

Years ago, the local community dug a ditch diverting all flow from

Jackson Creek in order to get more salmon into Netarts Bay. However, soon after, storm flows breached the plug which allowed about 40% of the water to flow back into Jackson Creek. As a result, fine sediment often collected at the ditch's outlet which stranded juvenile salmon. Additionally, the diversion occasionally caused flooding at the Cape Lookout campground.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our partners decided flow should be restored to the original channel, helping salmon and the area's campers. We conceived the project to also address two other fish passage issues: 1) the park's water intake, which uses Jackson Creek as its source, was oversized and insufficiently screened, and 2) a cement ford located near the ocean

"The project enhanced the local economy since all the contractors utilized in the project were from Oregon and several were from the local area. The large majority of the funds went to contractors for the design and construction of the project."

*-Katie Durzik,
OPRD*

Boulders were trucked in for reconstruction of the Jackson Creek channel



entrance was a partial barrier to fish passage.

We utilized a design-build approach. In 2011, staff identified the need to address fish passage and infrastructure issues and carried out a hydrologic study. Design occurred in 2012 and construction was completed in 2013.

The main project consisted of several elements: plug the ditch diverting

flow to Netarts Bay, remove and replace the existing water diversion with an appropriately sized and screened intake, remove the ford, re-grade the lower channel to provide full fish passage, and replace the ford with a bridge for park access.

We improved park infrastructure with the new water intake as well as the access bridge replacing the ford. Since the project is visible to

the public, we posted signs that illustrated the relationship between restoring the stream and conserving fishery resources. The Service will include photo points and possibly additional fish sampling in its ongoing work.

Restoring flow to a natural channel and removing episodic fish stranding in the diversion ditch help ensure resilience of this system far into the future.

Project Partners

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Accomplishment Metrics

- 3 miles of fish passage restored
- 0.4 mile riparian instream enhancement
- 3 barriers removed
- Floodplain access restored to two acre beaver pond wetland complex



The ford prior to restoration



USFWS



Katie Duzak/OPRD

The newly built bridge provides easy access to facilities for visitors, as well as good passage for salmon