PROJECT FACT SHEET:

CHANCE CREEK

STARTED: 9/19 | **COMPLETED: 10/22** | PROJECT LEAD: NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE/ TROUT UNLIMITED

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project improved a fish passage barrier on Chance Creek, restoring access to up to 1.7 miles of low gradient habitat for the Federally listed Oregon Coast coho (Oncorhynchus kisutch), chum, steelhead, and chinook, as well as lamprey, and cutthroat. The Chance Creek crossing was an undersized 3.3-foot round concrete culvert, located on private farmland approximately 2,000 feet upstream of the confluence of Chance Creek and the Trask River. The undersized culvert required regular maintenance to remove debris and flow blockages. The project installed a 21'10" x 8'5" aluminum box culvert on Chance Creek and improved an associated access road to reduce sediment runoff. Chance Creek is a tributary to the lower Trask River, which drains into Tillamook Bay.

BEFORE: The culvert at Chance Creek was very undersized, was prone to clogging, and impeded fish passage to upstream spawning and rearing habitats.

SPECIES + INFRASTRUCTURE

Oregon Coast coho (Oncorhynchus kisutch), chum, steelhead, and Chinook, as well as lamprey, and cutthroat all will benefit from this project. Spawning Chinook salmon were observed at the project site in November, 2022, when the fall rains arrived after project completion.

AFTER: The new culvert enables conveyance of high flows, and restores full volitional fish passage at this location in Chance Creek.

COMPLETED SOLUTION

The new culvert allows the creek to function as a normal stream at the road crossing location with lower channel velocity, no perch, and more available bank shoreline and natural stream bottom that will improve passage for aquatic organisms.

Culverts upstream of this one are in the early stages of landowner coordination and project development. These future projects would be funded through Salmon SuperHwy and NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

BENEFITS ACHIEVED

- Improves access to 1.7 miles of anadromous fish habitat
- Improves sediment and large wood transport
- Provide safe access for livestock and farm equipment

CHANCE CREEK
CULVERT REPLACEMENT

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

This project required much collaboration between partners to bring the project to completion. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tillamook County Creamery Association, Trout Unlimited, and the private landowner all cooperated to work through numerous project delays, changes, and complications, and bring the project to completion.

PARTNERS

Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Tillamook County Creamery Association, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and private landowner.

COST + FUNDING

TOTAL PROJECT COST: $267,876
NRCS: $38,992 + $70,000 in kind
USFWS: $48,297 cash + $10,000 in kind
Tillamook County Creamery Association: $25,868
ODFW: $71,719
TU: $3,000

"Aside from the SSH project, we've done a lot of stream-side planting and fencing for the good of the fish that essentially take land out of production. People are quick to point fingers at agriculture when it comes to environmental practices and fish population, but not quick to praise. It would be good for people to know farmers are doing good things."

— Kurt Mizee, Tilla Bay Farms

HAPPY LANDOWNER: Kurt Mizee, fourth-generation dairyman on the family farm, Tilla Bay Farms.

DURING: Lamprey were one species relocated out of the project area prior to dewatering and construction.

CHANCE CREEK

CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Photos by Broken Banjo Photography and SSH.