PORTLAND WATER BUREAU

Sandy River Engineered Log Jams

Multnomah County, Oregon

clockwise from top: Final touches on log jam; Large flows diverted away from the work area; Log jam installation zone dewatered to almost 20 feet below the river level; Carefully executed initial access, flow diversion, and site preparation

More than 1,350 carefully placed logs create and enhance much-needed habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead in a major tributary to the Columbia River.

From its origin as snowmelt from the western slopes of Mount Hood, the Sandy River flows 56 miles before emptying into the Columbia River. The river and its tributaries support several anadromous species, including threatened salmon and steelhead. Over the last several decades, human impacts such as a former hydroelectric dam, channelization, reduction of spawning and rearing habitat, and road construction have contributed to a significant decline in salmon and steelhead runs.

Working with the Portland Water Bureau, Metro, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Biohabitats restored key salmon and steelhead habitat at two sites along the Sandy River, one in Oxbow Regional Park and one in Dabney State Recreation Area.

At Oxbow Regional Park, the Biohabitats team excavated and reactivated a historic 2,200-foot long side channel. This involved installing large, engineered log jams designed to push flow into the restored channel and provide habitat. With assistance of a heavy lift helicopter, the team placed large wood in an existing side channel to enhance habitat. A second engineered log jam was installed at Dabney State Recreation Area.

In total, more than 1,350 pieces of locally sourced large wood, 1,800 tons of boulders, and 1,500 cubic yards of slash were used to create salmonid habitat for this ecological restoration project.

SERVICES

Construction

conservation planning
ecological restoration
regenerative design

Biohabitats
CASCADIA BIOREGION

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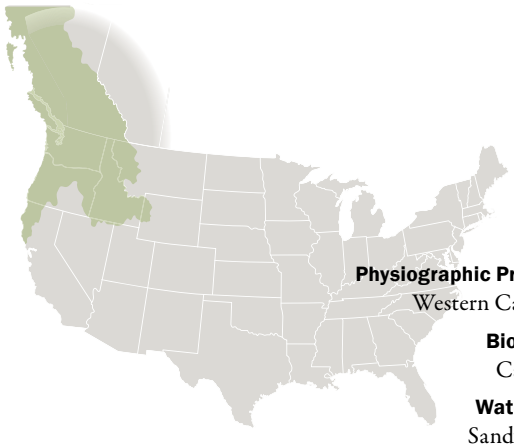

Physiographic Province
Western Cascades

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Watershed
Sandy River