

Big Creek Culvert Removal

Grants and In-Kind Funding: \$5,128

Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Private Landowner, ODFW, CWA Board & Council Volunteers



Before

Leslie Wetland Log Cribs

Grants and In-Kind Funding: \$12,364

Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Private Landowner, Yankee Creek Forestry, Trout Unlimited, CWA Council Volunteers



After

This OWEB Small Grant project improved instream habitat by removing a failing culvert on a tributary of Big Creek that provides spawning and rearing habitat for Coho Salmon, steelhead and trout. The banks were then sloped to meet the natural surrounding bank lines. Removal of the culvert will now allow the natural distribution of stream gravels.

After removal, the landowners then seeded and mulched the project area and interplanted 1-gallon pot cedar trees. The stream bed grade has visibly decreased, gravel transport has increased and fish passage has improved. These features will be the focus over the next few years of monitoring.

This OWEB Small Grant funded the installation of 10 nurse log structures within a 2-acre wetland near the Bandon National Wildlife Refuge. The cribs will serve as the base for native plantings, specifically Sitka Spruce, Bigleaf Maple, Red Cedar, Crabapple and Twinberry. The cribs will be monitored for 5 years.

The plantings provide needed native species diversity, which is lacking in the wetland, and will eventually shade out the reed canary grass once they reach free-to-grow size. This will shade the stream reducing solar input, and the reduced water temperatures and increased woody debris will provide improved habitat for Chinook & Coho Salmon and steelhead trout.