



2020 *Annual Report*





## *Strong Partners*

Despite numerous challenges created by the pandemic and wildfires, Salmon SuperHwy partners persevered completing six projects reconnecting 14.7 more miles of habitat for fish, bringing economic uplift at a critical time while upgrading important transportation infrastructure. With over 95 total miles reconnected, we're more than halfway to our goal of restoring 95% percent of the historically available habitat. Thank you to all our partners for their brilliant collaboration and flexible solutions as we navigated 2020 while building connectivity and resilience across the Tillamook Nestucca Subbasin.

### SSH IMPROVES TWO IMPORTANT ROUTES

SSH partners completed two projects this summer on important emergency alternative transportation routes. In addition to improving these two critical routes, the projects reconnected more than ten miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Oregon Coast coho, Chinook, chum, steelhead, lamprey, and cutthroat trout.

The **Peterson Creek** project replaced a failing culvert on Miami-Foley Road, a Priority 1 Lifeline Route for north Tillamook County transportation in the event of a disaster that closes Hwy 101.

The **Clear Creek** Project replaced a failing culvert on Jenck Road, which is identified as a critical bypass to Highway 101. Along Highway 101 there is a natural, low elevation point where King Tides and heavy storm surges reach the highway. In the case of a natural disaster, Jenck Road, and this crossing over Clear Creek, become critical infrastructure for emergency responders to make the North – South connection with Highway 22 to the Willamette Valley and other points east.



BEFORE: PETERSON CREEK CULVERT



AFTER: PETERSON CREEK BRIDGE



BEFORE: CLEAR CREEK CULVERT



AFTER: CLEAR CREEK BRIDGE



**“If it were not for the Salmon SuperHwy here in Tillamook County we would not have the current successful EQIP funding that can be used to address fish passage and water quality.”**

- Mitch Cummings, NRCS Tillamook District Conservationist

#### **NRCS AND SSH PARTNER ON ‘WORKING LANDS’**

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serves a critical role in the SSH by working with landowners to reconnect and improve fish habitat on their land. This year, NRCS worked with local landowners and partners to remove three fish passage barriers on agricultural land.

“NRCS works with private landowners on ‘Working Lands’ using Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). In order to effectively work with landowners to address their natural resource concerns using EQIP, NRCS works in partnership with the SSH. The support of the SSH partnership makes the NRCS programs effective and successful. Every project is a little different in what it takes to make it move forward. The SSH partnership has been able to provide the missing pieces in a timely manner that supports private landowner participation in helping the SSH reach our Fish Passage goals. If it were not for the SSH here in Tillamook County we would not have the current successful EQIP funding that can be used to address fish passage and water quality.” - Mitch Cummings, NRCS Tillamook District Conservationist

#### **2020 SUCCESS**

- 6 projects completed/barriers removed
- 14.7 miles of habitat reconnected
- 6 species of ocean-going fish species returned to historic habitat
- \$2.08 million + funding leveraged
- 31 jobs created
- United landowners with local, state, and federal partners to meet goals

#### **OVERALL SUCCESS**

- From 2014-2020, 35 of 93 priority barriers have been removed
- Over 95 miles of habitat has been reconnected. We’re over halfway to our goal of 180 miles reconnected!
- \$10.7 million in funding
- 160 jobs created
- Local support of the project continues to grow



The Salmon SuperHwy is the single biggest combined fish conservation/economic development partnership on the Oregon Coast. It is unprecedented in its strategy and scope, combining the latest science with local expertise to determine the highest conservation return on investment. Above left: Construction of a culvert on a Tillamook dairy farm. Above right: Spawning chum in the Miami River, which leads to numerous SSH project sites where they can now continue their journey.





2020

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAR, PETERSON AND TOMLINSON CREEKS



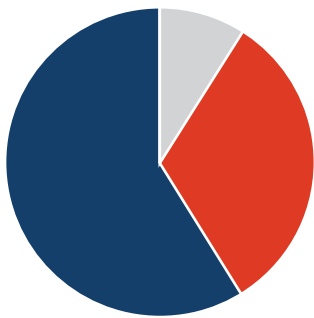






## PROJECT COST/FUNDING 2020

Salmon SuperHwy partners work strategically to maximize leveraging of funds. The final year of the Joint Chiefs Award continued the momentum of the program, and new funding secured from NOAA Community Based Restoration, Resources Legacy Fund, USFWS, and OWEB will help continue the progress in the next two years.



- Federal: \$1,203,934
- State: \$595,679
- Local/Private: \$285,092
- 2020 Total: \$2,084,705

## PARTNERS

**LOCAL:** Tillamook County, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Tillamook County Creamery Association, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council

**STATE:** OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, OR Dept. of Forestry, OR Dept. of Transportation, OR Watershed Enhancement Board, OR Fish Passage Task Force

**FEDERAL:** US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**NGO:** Trout Unlimited

## 2021 PROJECTS AND GOALS

- 10 projects to reconnect over 27 miles of habitat
- Support the return of 6 species of ocean going fish species to historic habitat
- \$4.6 million will be leveraged
- Leverage secured funds with new funding strategies
- Uniting more landowners with local, state, and federal partners to meet goals

