

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests
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For Immediate Release: May 19, 2009

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Chinook Salmon Habitat Being Restored in the Metolius River

Sisters—During the month of May, the Deschutes National Forest and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council along with local students, volunteers, and partners will be adding logs into and improving riparian areas adjacent to the Metolius River to restore Chinook salmon habitat in the river.

This Thursday, May 21, 2009, Sisters Middle School will restore riparian areas along the river. Wolfree Inc., a science education organization with an office in Sisters, is coordinating the schools and volunteers restoration efforts with the Deschutes National Forest. Students will rake and plant riparian shrubs and sedges along the river. Then they will cover the ground with pine needles to help protect native grass seed being sown.

In addition to the students work, the Forest Service and Deschutes Watershed Council will add 130 logs into the river primarily from Wizard Falls Bridge to Lower Bridge area of the Metolius River.

Chinook salmon have been reintroduced to the Metolius River in the past two years after being blocked from the river for over 40 years. In 2010, fish passage will be completed at Round Butte Dam and juvenile chinook salmon will be able to complete their migration to the ocean. This project is intended to increase the success of the return of the salmon to their native habitat.

The restoration project continues this fall with work from Riverside Campground to Lake Creek. If you have questions about the project, please contact Mike Riehle at (541) 549-7702 or mriehle@fs.fed.us.

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