Deep Creek Large Wood and Floodplain Restoration

Current Stream Conditions

The Ochoco National Forest, Trout Unlimited and the National Forest Foundation have partnered to improve fish habitat and streambank conditions in the Deep Creek Watershed. The project includes reshaping floodplains and adding whole trees to create pool habitat and cover for redband trout. Much of Deep Creek is lacking wood which means fast, straight riffles are the most common habitat feature. There is very little suitable resting, holding or feeding areas for fish in these areas. The project will also help trap spawning gravels around added wood. Currently small gravels are lacking.

Redband Trout

Deep Creek has one of the strongest populations of genetically diverse redband trout in the Crooked River Basin. Redband Trout are locally adapted to area streams and rivers. They spawn in the spring and fry emerge from gravels within 4-7 weeks.

Adding trees can change the appearance of streams and rivers. Large wood added to the Metolius River has become more weathered and looks more natural over time.

Restoration Methods and Goals

- Placing trees in log jam formations to create pools, trap spawning gravels and provide cover for fish.
- Reshaping floodplains and plugging stream channels will improve stream interaction with the floodplain, create new side channel habitats and improve growing conditions for streamside plants.
- Planting native plant species in impacted riparian and upland areas will increase stream shade and provide habitat for fish and wildlife species.
- Resting streamside areas from grazing will allow vegetation to recover, then new grazing strategies will be implement for long term success.

To learn more about the project, Contact the Ochoco National Forest Fisheries Biologist, mlehner@fs.fed.us, 541-416-6480

To sign up for a volunteer opportunity, contact Trout Unlimited Project Manager, Darek Staab, dstaab@tu.org, 541-480-6976

TROUT UNLIMITED

NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE