



Tillamook-Nestucca Salmon SuperHwy Project

Talking points, facts and figures

www.salmonsuperhwy.org

THIS UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT RESTORES ACCESS TO ALMOST 180 MILES OF BLOCKED HABITAT THROUGHOUT SIX MAJOR SALMON & STEELHEAD RIVERS OF OREGON'S NORTH COAST. USING A STRATEGIC, SCALED APPROACH TO MAXIMIZE BENEFITS AND MINIMIZE COSTS, A UNIQUE, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WILL DELIVER A PORTFOLIO OF 93 PROJECTS IN 10 YEARS. THEIR COMPLETION WILL RECONNECT HISTORIC HABITAT, REDUCE CHRONIC FLOODING, IMPROVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY, BOTH NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE.

What are Salmon Superhighways?

Salmon SuperHwys are the interconnected networks of rivers, streams, creeks and wetlands that together connect the mountains to the ocean, communities to nature, and people to fish. They absorb storms, deliver water, and distribute fish and nutrients throughout entire landscapes of the Pacific Coast. Much of the identity, community and economy of coastal Oregon is built around its Salmon SuperHwys.

What is the Salmon SuperHwy project about?

Like all vital infrastructure, Salmon SuperHwys require regular maintenance and repairs. Hundreds of culverts, small dams and tidegates - left unattended - can lead to chronic flooding and reduced fish runs over time. The Tillamook-Nestucca Fish Passage Partnership has devised a bold new strategy for restoring flow and function throughout one of Oregon's great coastal Salmon SuperHwys - the six-river landscape that spans the salmon and steelhead-rich region between Tillamook and Nestucca bays.

Continuing a Strong Oregon Tradition of Stewardship

From our public beaches to the Bottle Bill to our great parks, Oregon has always taken big steps together to protect what we value, an ethic that's especially evident along our coast. The Salmon SuperHwy project is a continuation of that bold spirit, uniting all Oregonians around one of our true iconic coastal landscapes and species of fish that define us.

Bringing Oregonians Together

Salmon conservation can be controversial, even divisive; it is at times portrayed as a choice between the needs of fish OR people, with winners and losers. Too often salmon and steelhead have become something to fight over, when they should be a source of pride and celebration. The Salmon SuperHwy brings together all kinds of Oregonians - farmers, loggers, anglers, scientists, conservationists - in an unprecedented partnership. We're not just reconnecting rivers, we're reconnecting communities and reinvesting in Oregon's coastal natural resource legacy.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- 940 square-mile landscape reconnected
- 6 rivers with restored fish passage and flood resilience: Nestucca, Tillamook, Trask, Wilson, Kilchis, Miami
- 6 fish species returned to historic habitat: Chinook, steelhead, coho, chum, sea-run cutthroat trout, lamprey
- 95% of habitat accessible for each individual fish population, for each river
- 178 river miles reconnected
- 400 jobs created in the local area
- \$53 million contributed to the local economy in direct and indirect benefits
- \$34 million direct investment in Tillamook County's river and road infrastructure over 10 years (30% of Tillamook County's culverts need repair now; expected to be 50% by 2023)
- 93 barriers fixed - most are culverts that block fish passage and cause flooding and erosion

The Science and Strategy of the Salmon SuperHwy

6 Rivers – 6 species – 95% habitat access – 1 job

Starting around 2010, a group of fisheries scientists chose the Tillamook-Nestucca as the ideal location to attempt a bold new approach to reconnecting fish habitat comprehensively across an entire landscape: restoring a Salmon SuperHwy. A strong tradition of local habitat work in the Tillamook-Nestucca, rich salmon and steelhead recovery potential and the local capacity to take on a large job make it possible here. The idea is simple: find the point at which conservation benefit per dollars invested is highest, and implement that set of projects in an intensive and accelerated timeframe. To repair *all the barriers* would take an estimated \$140 million and 70 years. After consulting with local experts, the Partnership prioritized 93 projects that will reconnect six species of fish to 95% of available habitat in 10 years at less than a quarter of the cost.

Oregonians Reinvesting in Oregon

Giving back to what makes Oregon great – reinvesting in the Oregon identity that we enjoy and profit from so that it continues – is part of the job of being here. The Tillamook-Nestucca Fish Passage Partnership is about bringing people together to reinvest in a major part of that Oregon identity, legacy and tradition of stewardship. Restoring and maintaining one of Oregon's major coastal Salmon Superhighways is an opportunity to participate in, and continue the tradition of, what makes Oregon great.



Salmon SuperHwy Key Points:

- > The Salmon SuperHwy project is the single biggest combined fish conservation/economic development partnership going on the Oregon Coast
- > Our goal is to reconnect 6 important rivers in the Tillamook-Nestucca area that have been blocked over time
- > It will reconnect 6 species of ocean-going fish with 95% of their available habitat: Chinook, steelhead, coho, chum, sea-run cutthroat trout and lamprey
- > It is unprecedented in its strategy and scope, combining the latest science with local expertise to determine the highest conservation return on investment
- > Creates and supports hundreds of local jobs and invests millions of dollars into the North Coast's economy
- > Stimulates outdoor recreation and fishing sectors, as well as greatly benefiting the dairy, agriculture, and forest products industries
- > Reduces chronic flooding and erosion, and greatly increases storm resilience throughout Tillamook County
- > Unites Oregonians around something we can do together for our salmon and steelhead at a time when too often we're fighting over them

Who are the 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