

OUTDOORS



A floodplain restoration project has transformed a stretch of Deer Creek to be more hospitable to salmon spawning. A new phase of the project begins this summer. MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL

Project to begin final phase of Deer Creek salmon habitat

Adam Duvernay
Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

A successful salmon habitat restoration project on a McKenzie River tributary is beginning its final phase.

Since 2016, the U.S. Forest Service and the McKenzie Watershed Council have worked to revitalize a stretch of Deer Creek so it can support salmon as it once did.

The project requires using heavy machinery to pull down large trees into the creek to foster better spawning habitat, which will temporarily make some nearby areas inaccessible.

McKenzie River Watershed Council described the tributary that flows into the upper McKenzie River downstream of Olallie Campground near river mile 80 as "significantly degraded" before the project began. Large pieces of wood had been removed, berms had been built to channel the creek and the stream bed consisted of large cobble and boulders with little of the gravel and deep pools salmon need to spawn.

"A lot of our streams have been impacted from a variety of practices, whether that was

stream cleaning because they thought having wood in the stream was impacting fish passage or manmade berms to dry out areas to have logging roads," Watershed Council Restoration Program Manager Jennifer Weber said. "You end up with a very narrow, channelized system with a lot of energy acting like a firehose pushing out that finer sediments needed for habitat."

Phases of work

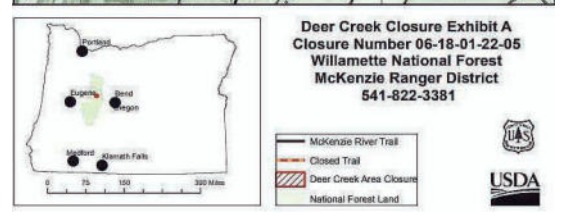
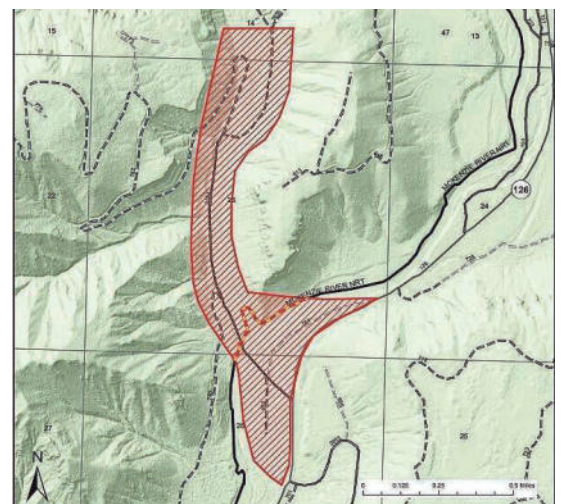
The restoration work so far has been done in three phases, Weber said.

In 2016, contractors removed 10,000 cubic yards of berms and fill from the project area and used it to match the elevation portions of the channel with the surrounding valley bottom to improve hydrological connectivity.

In 2017, contractors pulled 16 stream-side trees into a nearly half-mile section of Deer Creek to further improve the habitat.

New mapping technology became available after the original work was done, which allowed crews to return in more recent years to more thoroughly treat the area.

See **PROJECT**, Page 3B



Deer Creek Closure Map WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

'What makes Hawaii Hawaii?' Exploring Hawaiian heritage

Eve Chen
USA TODAY NETWORK

National Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is over, but the mission of honoring and sharing Hawaiian heritage continues year-round at Haleakala National Park in Maui.

"Haleakala is a sacred place to Native Hawaiians," said Honeygirl Duman, an interpretation and education specialist at the park. "We have sites that tie to certain people in Hawaiian culture in our stories, that people can trace their ancestry back to."

Legend has it that the demigod Maui stood on Haleakala's mountaintop to lasso the sun and extend daylight, according to Hawaii's official tourism arm — just like in Disney's "Moana" song "You're Welcome."

Haleakala means house of the sun in Hawaiian. It's still known for its awe-inspiring sunrises, which are so popular that summit viewings require reservations, but the land means much more to Native Ha-

waiians past and present.

"What makes Hawaii Hawaii?" asked Duman, who is Native Hawaiian. "It's not just the mai tais. It's not just the sandy beach or the hula dancers. It's so much more."

"It's the resources that we have, and it's the culture that came from our resources that made us who we are today," Duman said.

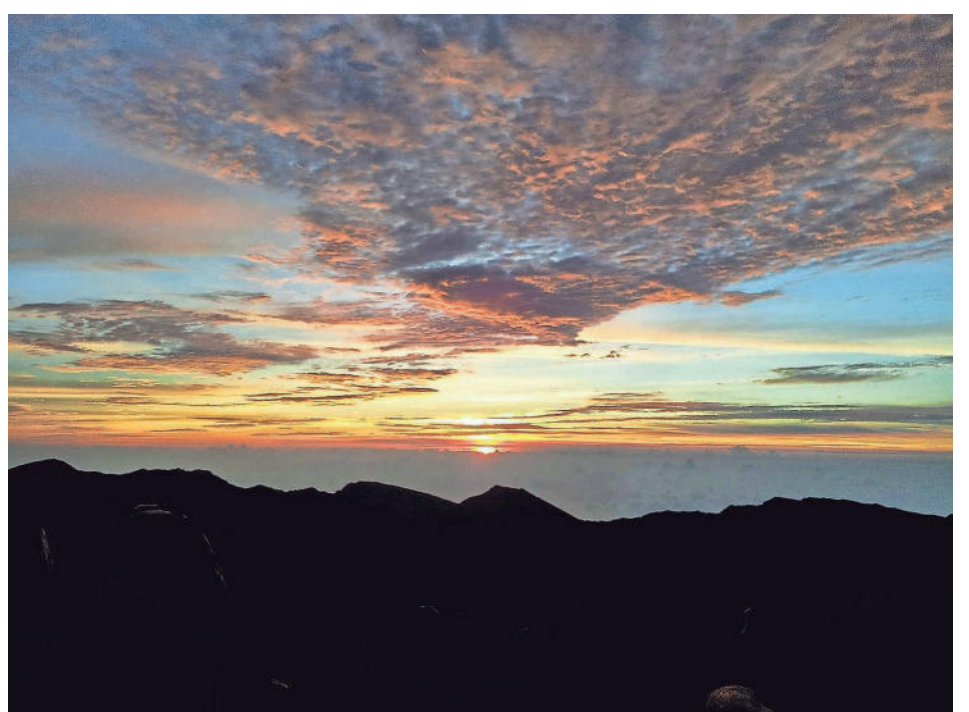
Native Hawaiians have cared for Haleakala for more than 1,000 years, according to the national park's website.

"It's what we call malama 'aina," Duman said. "Malama is to care for, and 'aina refers to the land, but it also extends out to the ocean as well."

The National Park Service's Leave No Trace principle helps carry on that legacy. Haleakala park rangers and cultural practitioners brought in by the park help share other Hawaiian traditions with visitors.

Duman loves sharing Haleakala's deep Hawaiian roots with travelers but

See **HAWAII**, Page 3B



Haleakala National Park is known for its stunning sunrises. Visitors must make reservations to see it from the park's summit. HONEYGIRL DUMAN, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE