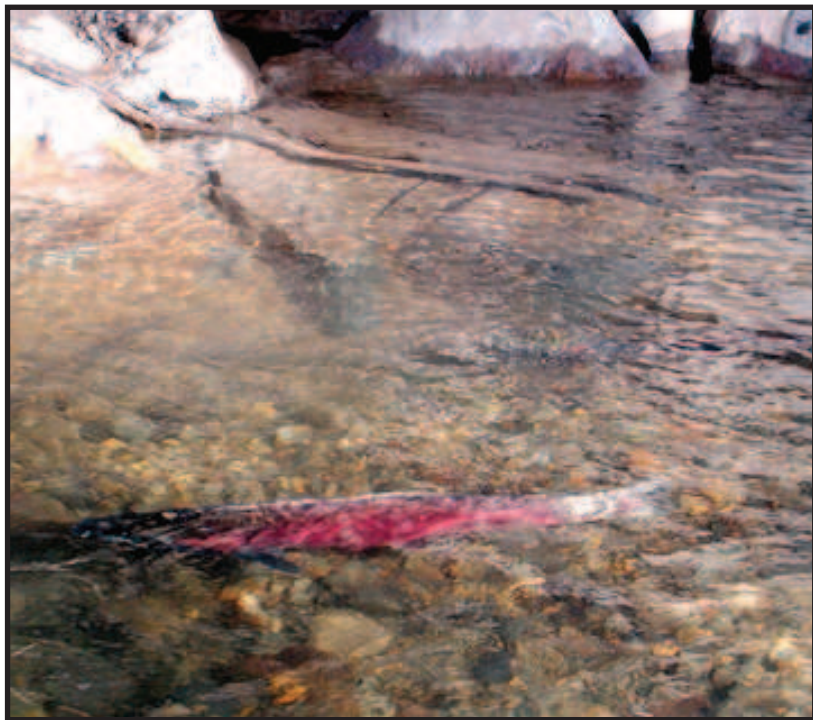


# UNWC Stream Restoration Project Sees Results



Coho salmon were spotted spawning at the site of a recently completed Upper Nehalem Watershed Council stream restoration project.

A watershed restoration project, managed by the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, and constructed this past summer, is already seeing positive results.

The Tweedle Project included two culverts which were removed and replaced with bridges over Tweedle and George Creeks in Clatsop County. This fall, Coho Salmon were seen spawning at the site of the new bridge over George Creek.

"I haven't actually been up there myself, but the Clatsop County Road Department took these photos for us," said UNWC Director Maggie Peyton.

The project was funded by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board funds and was a collaboration between numerous agencies, jurisdictions and groups.

"The significance is that before the project, that would have been a culvert,

and they wouldn't have been spawning there," said Peyton. "And it also means the salmon are able to go further upstream and spawn."

Vernonia's Voice reported on the culvert replacement project in our November 2009 issue. "Before the replacement, passage would have been conditional," said Peyton.

The culvert allowed some fish to get upstream, but was perched and required a jump. Also, a certain amount of stream flow is required to allow fish to get through, but too much flow causes the culvert to act like a pressure washer and pushes the fish back. "There are velocity constraints," says Peyton. "It would have to be the right amount of flow. In a culvert like that, when it's undersized and the run is so long, if the pressure and velocity are too much, then the salmon can't go the distance."

"It's pretty exciting to have them right there at the bridge," continues Peyton. "That means that the habitat we built at the bridge as part of the project is suitable for spawning."

And it means that more salmon will be returning further upstream. "They have 100% access to the reaches above," says Peyton.

## Vernonia Cares Receives Donation

Vernonia Cares Food Bank received a \$1,000 donation from Bridge Street Mini Mart. Pictured is Toni Barton transferring the check to Vernonia Cares Food Bank Treasurer, Josette Mitchell, and her daughter Sailor. "The food bank had double duty this month," comments Josette. "We assist over 400 people per month with emergency food boxes plus in December we gave away 185 Christmas meal food boxes. This generous check will allow us to continue to feed hungry people in and around Vernonia. Thanks so much!" concludes Ms. Mitchell. The community has been very generous in Vernonia Cares' fund raising efforts, especially during this holiday time.



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