

UNWC Facilitates Another Restoration Project *continued from front page*

as support from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Weyerhaeuser is paying half the cost for the stream crossing and road improvements, and are also providing a large portion of the large trees with root wads for the stream placement. Quality Excavation from Seaside, OR is the contractor on the project, completing a realignment of the road and also working on the wood placement. Michele Long a Restoration Biologist from ODFW is overseeing the wood placement. Peyton and the UNWC provide project management oversight, management and oversight of the planting, and grant administration.

The project also provided an opportunity for the UNWC to work with Weyerhaeuser's Steve McNulty, who has provided the engineering for the project. McNulty has worked cooperatively with the UNWC on several recent projects over the last few years and has been instrumental in helping the UNWC complete several difficult projects, including last year's Elk Creek project that replaced a fish culvert under the Scappoose-Vernonia Highway. McNulty is transferring to another region and the Pebble Creek project is his last project in the Vernonia area in conjunction with the UNWC.

"Steve brought this project to

us and provided the engineering for it," says Peyton. "He works very closely with the contractor, overseeing everything they are doing."

McNulty also served on the Board of Directors for the UNWC, assisting in a recent reorganization of the group that has been very beneficial to group operations.

We're very sad Steve is leaving and have been extremely grateful for his presence," says Peyton. "He has been a critical piece to several of our projects—without him we would not be doing this Pebble Creek project."

During a recent tour of the Pebble Creek site, McNulty explained the benefits the project hopes to accomplish. "We had an undersized culvert that was blocking fish passage, which was a difficult situation for us for maintenance wise, because we couldn't reach the upstream inlet to maintain it—the beavers loved to plug it," says McNulty. "And we end up with a big sediment deposit upstream and a sediment deficiency downstream and it creates an impassable barrier for salmon. So what we did was realign the road further upstream to get a good, fish passable structure and a lower fill height so we can maintain it easier. Because what happens is, you get all this water built up behind it and then you

have a catastrophic failure."

McNulty says he designed the road realignment so that log trucks and especially low boys could still traverse

try to keep them working."

Michele Long of ODFW works closely with the contractors as they use heavy equipment to strategically place

large logs, rocks and other debris into the stream bed. "What we have found is wherever there is wood in Pebble Creek and its tributaries, the numbers of juvenile Coho salmon go through the roof," explains Long. "Pebble Creek really supports a lot of fish. Where there isn't the complex wood cover there aren't as many fish. We've been able to



Contractors place large, woody debris into Cold Creek to help create salmon habitat.

the curves in the road and Weyerhaeuser would still have access.

Regrading the stream below the passage, including the removal of a five foot vertical fall, and placing woody and rocky debris in the stream bed, allows sediment to flow naturally through the system, recreating the natural flow of the stream. In fact, McNulty says before work started on the project, the pool below the falls was filled with salmon trying to get upstream.

According to McNulty, not only does the project allow more adult salmon to get upstream, it also provides more summer refuge for juveniles looking to find cooler water. "In the summer temperature is a big deal and they're trying to get upstream to the cooler water--this will now allow them up this side channel into this Riparian Management Area which is well shaded and will give them extra refuge from the higher temperatures."

The Oregon Forest Practice Act requires Weyerhaeuser to maintain buffer zones on fish streams.

McNulty says projects like this are not just beneficial for fish; they also help the local economy. The contractor on the Pebble Creek project, Quality Excavation, is primarily forest and timber road construction and maintenance contractors. During an economic downturn, salmon habitat construction projects provide work for contractors. "We've lost a lot of contractors—a lot of them have gone out of business," says McNulty. "When the housing market turns around, we're not going to have the work force to come out and do this kind of work. That's why we

match up the habitat surveys the UNWC has done with the fish presence surveys they've done and it shows that there are more fish where the good habitat is. So we're creating more of that type of habitat."

According to Long, the placement of woody debris in the stream helps the natural process of future wood recruitment and creates natural places for complex structures to catch more debris and form deep pools of water. "The stream will find its own equilibrium," says Long.

This is not the end of the work in Pebble creek--but only the beginning, according to Long. "We are starting at the top and will work our way down, addressing limiting factors—things like habitat, passage, and sediment, throughout the watershed over the next unknown number of years," says Long. "One thing that is really helping us out in this case is that Weyerhaeuser is the primary landowner for most of the watershed."

Weyerhaeuser owns approximately 50,000 acres in Columbia and Clatsop Counties, called the Vernonia Property. McNulty has worked on the property for over ten years and will be transferring to the Weyerhaeuser's Snow Peak tree farm near Lebanon, OR. He will be replaced by Dan Summers, who has thirty years of experience.

Peyton hopes the working relationship that the UNWC has developed with Weyerhaeuser through McNulty will continue after he's gone. "I think Weyerhaeuser sees the benefit to continuing the restoration relationship with the UNWC," says Peyton.

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(Columbia Emergency Planning Association) July 2010

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Clatsop Co. 503-325-4411
Clackamas Co. 503-655-8211
Cowlitz Co. (Longview) 360-577-3098
Tillamook Co. 503-815-1911
WCCCA (Washington Co.) 503-629-0111
WSP (Wash State Patrol) 360-449-7950
OSP (Oregon State Police) 503-397-3131

COUNTY AGENCIES

Animal Control 503-397-3935
CENT (Narcotics Team) 503-397-1167
or 866-397-1167
Colum. Co. Emerg. Mngmt 503-366-3905
Colum. Co. Road Dept. 503-397-5090
DMV - St. Helens 503-397-3515
Colum. Co. Juvenile Dept. 503-397-0275
Colum. Co. Mental Health 503-397-2511
or 800-294-5211
Colum. Co. Parole & Prob. 503-397-6253
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Columbia City Muni Court 503-397-4010
Rainier Muni Court 503-556-3200
St. Helens Muni Court 503-397-6272
Scappoose Muni Court 503-543-7146 x225
Vernonia Justice Court 503-429-2441

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Columbia Co. Jail 503-366-4630 ext. 0

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Oregon Dept. of Forestry 503-397-2636
Scappoose Fire 503-543-5026
Vernonia Fire 503-429-8252
Vernonia EMS 503-429-4600

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Columbia River PUD 503-397-1844
NW Natural Gas 800-544-1795
West Oregon Electric 800-777-1276
503-429-3021

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Emanuel 503-413-2200
Good Samaritan 503-413-7711
Kaiser Sunnyside 503-652-2880
OHSU 503-494-8311
Poison Control 800-452-7165
Portland Adventist 503-251-6155
Providence 503-215-1111
St. Johns - Longview 360-636-4818
St. Vincent 503-216-1234
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Tuality - Hillsboro 503-681-1111
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Rainier Public Works 503-556-9144
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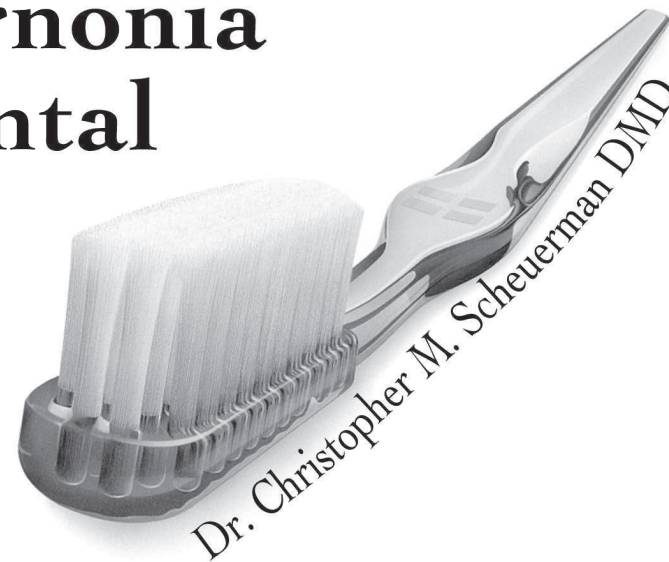
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Vernonia Dental



622 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR 97064
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