



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
A crew works on CREST's Columbia-Pacific Passage Habitat Restoration project located along Highway 401 on Thursday in Washington.

Technology may offer struggling timber hope

Two mills test panels

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and PHUONG LE
Associated Press

RIDDLE — John Redfield watches with pride as his son moves a laser-guided precision saw the size of a semi-truck wheel into place over a massive panel of wood.

Redfield's fingers are scarred from a lifetime of cutting wood and now, after decades of decline in the logging business, he has new hope that his son, too, can make a career shaping the timber felled in southern Oregon's forests.

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AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus
John Redfield, chief operating officer of D.R. Johnson Lumber Co. in Riddle, poses for a photo as he shows an example of a cross-laminated timber, or CLT, panel that underwent a flammability test. D.R. Johnson is one of just two companies in the United States currently able to produce the panels.

Reconnecting the river with the past

Fish-passage work brings Megler Creek back to the time of Corps of Discovery

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

DISMAL NITCH, Wash. — Beset by wind, rain and thunder, the Corps of Discovery made camp Nov. 12, 1805, near Dismal Nitch at the foot of a small, unnamed stream, today known as Megler Creek.

Capt. William Clark wrote in his journal of how the Corps, trying to replenish stocks of pounded fish, killed at least 15 salmon in the stream to supplement their meager rations.

Until recently, the creek where the Corps encamped more than 210 years ago ran under a damaged 48-inch culvert beneath the rock rip-rap of Washington State Route 401, limiting fish passage to a trickle during high tides.

But a partnership between the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce will soon restore Megler Creek to its historic levels of fish passage.

Piercing the armor

"Research has indicated that nearly 80 percent of juvenile out-migrants are using this Washington shoreline as they're migrating out to sea," said Jason Smith, a habitat restoration project manager with CREST overseeing the culvert replacement.

Juvenile salmon migrating out to sea need off-channel rest stops as they acclimate to salty water, just as adult salmon need habitat to spawn eggs in when coming home. But along a 9-mile stretch of waterfront between Knappton

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce's Columbia-Pacific Passage Habitat Restoration project hopes to restore salmon passage to Megler Creek.



A project by the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce and National Park Service is replacing a damaged 48-inch culvert through which Megler Creek travels under Washington State Route 401 with a 12-foot concrete culvert. The project will improve fish passage and create miles of cold-water spawning habitat similar to what the Corps of Discovery encountered more than 200 years ago.

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Shielded sites thrust into debate over dams

Native American sites caught up in fish fight

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A little-known federal program that avoids publicizing its accomplishments to protect from looters the thousands of Native American sites it's tasked with managing has been caught up in a big net.

The Federal Columbia River System Cultural Resources Program tracks some 4,000 historical sites that also include homesteads and missions in Oregon, Washington state, Idaho and Montana.

Now it's contributing information as authorities prepare a court-ordered environmental impact statement concerning struggling salmon and the operation of 14 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin.

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Researchers explore sea lion feast at Bonneville dam

Sea lions spread salmon-eating behaviors

Columbia Basin Bulletin

A new study used the same kind of models that scientists use to track disease to instead examine how some California sea lions have learned to prey on salmon gathering to ascend fish ladders at Bonneville Dam.

Although sea lions commonly feast on fish, their predation on salmon at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River poses wildlife man-

agement challenges. The sea lions that gather on the Columbia each spring are protected by the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, while the salmon they are eating are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

In 2008, NOAA Fisheries authorized Oregon, Washington state and Idaho wildlife authorities to begin trapping, removing and sometimes euthanizing sea lions shown to repeatedly prey on salmon at the dam. The removal program was designed to reduce impacts on protected salmon.

NOAA Fisheries recently authorized the states to continue the removals over the

next five years.

The new study examined the effectiveness of the removal program, employing epidemiological models to assess how the behavior of eating salmon at the dam passes among sea lions.

The research concluded that the removal program has successfully slowed the transmission of the behavior among sea lions, but would have been more effective if it had started sooner.

Intervene early

The findings highlight the need to act early "from both a

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AP Photo/Rick Bowmer
Water flows through the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River near Cascade Locks.

