

# Lower South Fork McKenzie Floodplain Enhancement Week of August 6th, 2018



**Diverting Water Back** - (Above) after weeks of work and all valley bottom surfaces prepped, equipment plugs the diversion ditch and sends water back across the finished surface. (Lower left) BCI Operator, Cody Campbell, walks over a log as flow enters the project area for the first time. (Lower right) Mickey Means-Brous rejoices as flow passes one of her structures.





**Looking Pretty Fish Friendly** – (Above) Nick Grant stands amidst the newly watered surfaces of the project area, looking at water everywhere. The open area to the left was the old channel brought up several feet in elevation and covered with wood. The vegetated area to the right is what we call “the lobe”, a previously dry area next to the old channel that is now full of water and wood. (Bottom left) Typical gravels watered and sorted by the new flow that will be good for fish spawning. (Bottom right) A cutthroat trout caught by “hook and line” sampling in the upper project area, just a few days after water was released back into the project. Nice!





**Water on the New Surface** - (Above) water flows through the bottom of Cut #10 and into the woods where old channels are rewetted. (Below) clear water winds its way through the gravel and wood of Cut #9. The main stem McKenzie River can be seen in the background.





**Media Day at the Project Site** – Aided by Willamette NF Public Affairs Specialist, Chiara Cipriano, both television and print media visited the South Fork project on August 6<sup>th</sup>. (Above) Kate Meyer speaks with a KMTR reporter on camera. (Below) Register Guard reporter, Christian Hill (with notebook), interviews District Ranger Darren Cross, McKenzie Watershed Council Executive Director, Jared Weybright and McKenzie River District Hydrologist, Nick Grant.





**Final Fish Rescue** – After most of the flow had been diverted back into the main project area, the diversion channel was seined for fish before diversion rehab. (Above) Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Forest Service, Watershed Council, YCC volunteers and BCI contractors all worked together to stretch sein nets across the channel. (Below) working as a team, about 1,000 fish of all varieties were netted and temporarily stored in a large aerated cooler in an inflatable kayak that was later paddled upstream where fish were counted and released.





**Fish Counting and Release** – (Above) Fisheries personnel count the fish a small net full at a time. This net has juvenile trout and spring Chinook. (Below) YCC volunteer Lucas Lopez releases fish into a pool directly above the project area. If you look closely, you can see some of the bigger trout leaving Lucas’s bucket. The highlight of the day was when we captured an adult spring Chinook salmon, something most of the YCC volunteers like Lucas had never seen. Quote from Lucas on his day: “That’s the coolest thing I’ve ever done!”



## PEOPLE PICS THIS WEEK



**Let the Tours Begin** – (Above) Deputy Forest Supervisor, Holly Jewkes (black hardhat) and McKenzie River Ranger District NR Staff Officer, Shane Kamrath (yellow hardhat) came out to see the project and be our test subjects for future tours. Step 1 is to get visitors in the water. Step 2 (below) is to start walking the many logs in the project area.





**Above and Beyond** – (Above, right) BCI’s Cody Campbell (grey shirt) works with Jared Weybright to assure that the sein net doesn’t get stuck on the channel bottom. (Above, left) Tragon Campbell, Cody’s son, spends the day helping us with fish rescue and works hard. (Below, left) BCI’s Jeremy Lindstrom takes a break from heavy equipment to help us catch fish. (Below, right) Roy Porter, son of BCI owner Dave Porter, is in lock step with his Dad and was also a big part of fish rescue. BCI employees went way above and beyond to help us with details of the project like fish rescue. Thanks a bunch, guys!





**Sunset Sampling** – Nick Grant makes a few casts with Kate Meyer’s fly rod in a pool above the project area as equipment continues to work at sunset. Nick caught and released several small fish which have likely moved down into the project area after water was released later in the week.

