



Fish Passage at Fivemile Creek

Video Transcript

For years, a diversion dam on Fivemile Creek in southern Oregon has provided irrigation for Black Drake and neighboring ranches.

It also blocked fish passage of native species during the irrigation season.

Local ranchers, the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office in Southern Oregon, and their partners had undertaken a cooperative effort to improve fish habitat by reconstructing the creek and reconnecting it to its flood plain.

Thirty thousand dollars in Recovery Act funding proved invaluable in allowing completion of the project.

"This project has been a goal of the landowners and the nearby community for a long time. It was great to have a chance to work together and get it accomplished thanks to ARRA funding."

Sue Mattenberger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This restoration project has already brought together federal, state, tribal, and private environmental groups, who are working hand-in-hand with cattle ranchers in the area.

"I wanted to bring our community together by engaging in a project that would improve the habitat in a way that respected and preserved the longstanding water rights of the ranchers."

Greg Bulkley, Black Drake Ranch

The award is helping pump money into the local community of Bly, Oregon.

"The use of local contractors is cost-effective, it benefits the local economy, and it provides a local pool of experience to draw on for future projects."

Sue Mattenberger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"Development of the analysis and plans for this work contributed to the continuing employment of five technical staff during difficult times."
Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics

The project was completed in December 2009, thanks to the hard work of landowners and volunteers.

"The landowners have been a tremendous supporter of fish habitat restoration in the Sprague River Valley. The Fivemile Creek fish passage project has opened doors to other landowners in the Sprague River Valley."
William R. Tinniswood, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

It's all about the power of dedicated people to form great partnerships and get the work done.

"One of the equipment operators came by with all three generations of his family. He showed them what had been done and why and described what it would look like in a few years, and how it reflected well on their community."
Barry Hecht, Balance Hydrologics

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