

Mt. Hood National Forest

Partners come together for restoration . . .

. . . in your national forest!



The Situation

Think back to the winters of 1996 and 1997. Major floods in Ramsey Creek watershed east of Mt. Hood severely damaged spawning and rearing habitat for threatened steelhead. Restoration was urgently needed.

Ramsey Creek is included in a 9,000-acre acquisition area managed for fish and wildlife values, where several partners came together for a common goal. The players were the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with major help from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Ruffed Grouse Society.



The Challenge

The job was a big one! No less than restoring the function of the natural stream channel and floodplain; improving the quality of spawning and rearing habitat for trout; reducing erosion of the valley-bottom road and stream banks; improving the diversity and health of riparian vegetation; and reducing access to only non-motorized users.



Habitat restoration in Ramsey Creek's stream channel, floodplain, and adjacent upslope areas between 2000 and 2002 included improving habitat for large and small game, and winter steelhead trout. A three-mile road was converted to a trail, native forage and nesting vegetation was planted, and an "underburn" was conducted to benefit deer, elk, and birds. Logs were added in the stream and floodplain to improve stream function and create deep "resting and hiding" pools for native fish.

Now what?

Long-term effectiveness monitoring is underway for the projects. We want to know for sure how effective our joint efforts were, so we can be more effective in the future and make changes if needed.



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