

## ODOT Angles For A Fishy Solution

ODOT has been piling up rocks onto a The Dalles-area stream bed as the last step in helping steelhead trout live better lives.



The rocks are helping to make a permanent improvement to the culvert that runs under US197 at Threemile Creek.

During late summer and early fall that ODOT's attention turns to fish...the water they swim in...and the wetlands that surrounds them.

That's because it's this time of year when water levels allow ODOT's crews and contractors to actually get in the water and make big changes that will enhance fish runs and keep waterways healthy.

Just outside of The Dalles, not very far from the Columbia River at all, ODOT's crews are helping increase the steelhead runs of the Mid Columbia River.

Those runs are listed as Threatened, under the Endangered Species Act.

At Threemile Creek, ODOT is improving fish passage and spawning opportunities.

Inside one of the culverts, ODOT crews are installing weirs...call them step ladders for fish if you will.

The idea is that during low stream flows, the water will pool behind the barriers that ODOT is putting in...and as the fish are able to jump from one to another, their passage upstream is made easier.

The combined treatment on three mile creek is expected to open up miles of new steelhead habitat...at a cost of just 100-thousand dollars.



It's just one of many ODOT projects designed to help Mother Nature.