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## Restoration Success: Salmon Return to Horsetail Creek



Salmon are back at Horsetail Creek! The floodplain restoration project was completed in 2013 and made several improvements at the site: it improved fish access to Horsetail and Oneonta Creeks; improved cold water conditions within the site; and improved habitat complexity by creating a meandering channels, placing large wood, and planting native

vegetation.

Since the project was completed, we have monitored how effective the restoration has been for fish use. Using a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag array, we looked at what species of fish were visiting the site and how long they stayed.

In 2014, we detected tagged hatchery and wild salmon from spring, summer, and winter runs at the site. The PIT tag array recorded coho using the improved culvert to access the site last August and October. The project specifically benefits coho salmon that spawn at the site, but fish that spawn above Bonneville Dam also benefit from the improved conditions. We are finding Snake River steelhead, Wenatchee River coho, and Little Salmon River Chinook amongst others stopping on their journey to the Pacific Ocean.



Habitat in the Columbia Gorge is a priority for protection and restoration – there is not a

lot of it, making what's available very important. Additionally, migrating fish have longer distances in between available habitats after leaving the Gorge and entering the urban corridor of Portland to Longview. We will continue to record what types of fish use the site and track ecological trends as the Horsetail site evolves.

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## Coming Full Circle: Intern Sean Flores



This summer, we are lucky to have the help of our intern, Sean Flores. Sean will be a senior this fall at the University of Oregon, majoring in environmental studies with a focus on policy and social sciences, and minoring in nonprofit administration.

Sean's interest in science and the environment was first kindled in a middle school biology class, in which he learned about Portland's Big Pipe Project and how it would benefit the river. Estuary Partnership Environmental

Educators also visited Sean's class and took them outside to hike, explore, and plant native trees. He notes what a difference that has made for him. It's exciting to follow up with students and hear that our programs affected them and even guided their college course work.

Sean has been incredibly busy and helpful. He has steered our canoes for several of our community and youth paddles, assisted the science team with biomass sampling and indexing at Franz Lake, and helped to create materials for summer education activities. He also has helped us stay on top of data entry—a critical if somewhat unglamorous task. Sean says his favorite part of his internship so far has been helping with local paddles, like the Willamette Narrows in West Linn. "It's great to see the water up close, and to show kids what's right in their back yard and what we often overlook."

Sean's goal is a career in nonprofits, and he says he appreciates the opportunities to learn about different career paths first-hand working with the Estuary Partnership. Sean will be interning with us until mid-September, and we're so grateful for his hard work and dedication to the river!



## Save the Date: Celebrate 20 Years with us on October 17

Join us for our annual fundraising gala on the banks of the Columbia. This year we celebrate 20 years of working together for a healthy river. Guests will be treated to a fantastic Columbia River-inspired art showcase, delightful and unique live auction experiences, delectable food and drink, dancing under the stars, and s'mores by the fire. Proceeds help us get kids outdoors to expand their learning and stir their curiosity and imagination.

Tickets will be available online soon—contact [Vanessa Bird](#) (503-222-5694 x234) for information or tickets.



## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar; we would love to see you at one of our events. There's a little something for every river lover! Please [visit our website](#) for more details - pre-registration is required for some events.

- **August 22, 9 - 11:30am** - [Love Your Columbia Paddle](#), Dalton Point, Columbia Gorge, Oregon
- **September 13, 11am - 5:30pm** - [Soul River's Celebration Wild Steelhead](#), McCoy Park, Portland
- **September 26, 7am - 2pm** - [Vancouver Lake Eco-Blitz](#), Vancouver
- **September 26, 1 - 7pm** - [Homebrewers' Competition](#), Columbia River Brewing, Portland
- **October 3 & 4** - [BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebration](#), Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
- **November 19** - [Science to Policy Summit: Toxics Reduction Success and Obstacles](#), Red Lion Inn at the Quay, Vancouver



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