Hood River Fish Habitat Project

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Annual Report
2001 - 2002

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THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON (CTWSRO)

Hood River Fish Habitat Project

Annual Report

October 2001 - September 2002

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Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO)

Project No. 1998-021-00
Contract No. 00005645

ABSTRACT
This report summarizes the project implementation and monitoring of all habitat activities that occurred over Fiscal Year 2002 (FY 02). Some of the objectives in the corresponding statement of work for this contract were not completed within FY 02. A description of the progress during FY 02 and reasoning for deviation from the original tasks and timeline are given.

OBJECTIVE 1. Provide coordination of all activities, administrative oversight and assist in project implementation and monitoring activities.
Administration oversight and coordination of the habitat statement of work, budget, subcontracts and personnel was provided.

OBJECTIVE 2. Develop, coordinate, and implement the Hood River Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan.
The Hood River Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan was completed in 2000 (Coccoli et al., 2000). This document is utilized for many purposes including: drafting the Watershed Action Plan, ranking projects for funding, and prioritizing projects to target in the future. This document was updated and revised to reflect changes to fish habitat and needs in the Hood River basin based upon other documents and actions taken in the basin.

OBJECTIVE 3. **Assist Middle Fork Irrigation District in developing an alternative irrigation water source on Evans Creek (Hutson pond and Evans Creek diversion), eliminating the need for irrigation diversion dams which happen to be partial fish barriers. Upon completion, this project will restore 2.5 miles of access for winter steelhead, coho salmon, and resident trout habitat.** ****NOTE: This objective was revised and included in the FY 03 Statement of Work for Project No. 1998-021-00.****
During FY 02 the final engineering was completed on this project. However, due to a lengthy permitting process and NMFS consultation, this project was inadvertently delayed. Project completion is expected in July 2003.

OBJECTIVE 4. Assist the Farmers Irrigation District (FID) in construction and installation of a new fish screen and bypass system on the mainstem Hood River (Farmers Canal).
Final engineering and design for the horizontal screen was completed during the winter of 2001. In December 2001 and January 2002, the concrete work was completed and the head gates were mounted. During the spring the secondary head level control gates were installed. In September 2002, the jersey barriers and vortex tubes were installed. These are located upstream of the old drum screen, and are the primary means of dealing with bedload and suspended load from the diversion. The screen surface was also installed in September 2002 and the system accommodated water soon after. Monitoring of these structures in regards to efficiency and possible effects to fish migration is scheduled to occur in spring 2003.

The transition from the old canal to the new screen is smooth and currently does not present any problems. The old drum screen is going to remain in place until all the biological and hydrological monitoring is complete to ensure compliance and satisfaction of all agencies involved.

OBJECTIVE 5. Assist the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID) in final engineering design and construction of the Central Lateral Canal upgrade and invert siphon. ****NOTE: This objective was revised and included in the FY 03 Statement of Work for Project No. 1998-021-00.****
During FY 02, a significant portion of the engineering and design work was completed on the EFID Central Lateral Canal upgrade and invert siphon. There were some changes in canal alignment that required further design work and easement acquisition. Time was also spent looking for matching funds and securing a loan by the EFID. Construction initiation is now scheduled for summer 2003.

OBJECTIVE 6. Modify and/or eliminate five culverts, three on Baldwin Creek, one on Graham Creek, and one on Evans Creek, which function as barriers to upstream and downstream fish migration. ****NOTE: This objective was revised and included in the FY 03 Statement of Work for Project No. 1998-021-00.****
There are only two culverts on Baldwin Creek that will be eliminated or modified. Work was initiated on the removal of one of these culverts, and the replacement of the other. The landowner was agreeable and NEPA was initiated. The modification/elimination of these culverts is scheduled for FY 04. The culvert on Graham Creek is a county road, and will be addressed as a fish passage barrier by Hood River County. The Evans Creek culvert was prepared for modification in FY 02, however due to a lengthy permitting process the instream work period was missed. This project is on the schedule for the instream work period of 2003.

OBJECTIVE 7. Construct riparian fence to stabilize and improve the riparian zone along the East Fork Hood River and tributaries.
Two riparian fencing projects were completed on East Fork Hood River tributaries. The first was on Baldwin Creek, and the second was on Shelly Creek. The Baldwin Creek fence was completed to exclose horses from the creek and protected over 100 meters of stream. A buffer of 3.4-4.5 meters was created for Baldwin Creek. The riparian vegetation was still in tact and was primarily willows. Photopoints were taken of Baldwin Creek before the fencing project began. The Shelly Creek fence was constructed to exclose cattle from the creek and protected almost 400 meters of stream along with two small adjacent wetland areas. A buffer of 3.4-4.5 meters was created for Shelly Creek. The riparian vegetation had been essentially removed and probably consisted of willows and hardwoods. This project tied into a fence that was completed in 1998 on Neal Creek to create a larger parcel of land that excludes cattle from Neal Creek, Shelly Creek, and adjacent wetlands. This area is now effectively fenced off to livestock, and the new plantings are beginning to establish themselves.