

2014 Project Activities Summary

Chetco River

Year-End Review

Here are some of the activities / projects / grants for the Chetco River that are currently in the works:

- **Trash Dogs;** Almost 150 tons of trash picked up from our rivers. 120 different events for trash pick-ups by volunteers. Award-winning volunteer group that we sponsor; has received the highest award given to citizen groups by the US Forest Service. They operate in the entire county, but focus their efforts mostly on the Chetco River and tributaries. We handle all billings and invoices, grant management and reporting --- and also participate in clean-ups.
- Assessing fish passage and designing improvements at “Riverside Mkt” property, Joe Hall Creek, Lower Ferry Creek, & Nell Creek (south side near Fallerts).
- Assessing sediment and water quality at Freeman Rock’s Upland Quarry
- Adding large wood on lower Jack Creek for winter refugia.
- Adding large wood, clearing blackberries, riparian plantings, and creating off-channel alcoves at Salmon Run Golf Course (Jack Creek).
- Aiding landowners with bio-engineering (soft) designs for permitting (Kovarik – S. Bank)
- **Adopt-A-Stream Activities** for kids in Chetco River: removing invasive weeds; picking up litter, inventorying riparian areas, planting trees, etc.
- **Comprehensive curriculum for students** in Brookings schools -- 12-part *Watersheds* and salmon life history curriculum with field trips. Additional lessons in *Foodsheds* -- Where does our food come from; where does the food produced here go? How do humans fit into their “Foodshed” - and how does growing/transporting food affect our rivers and streams?
- **Comprehensive** estuary and wetland assessment of the Chetco River, with a key toward identifying key properties for protection or restoration.
- **Harris Beach** gorse removal and re-planting - on-going – several acres
- **Tree planting** (winter) for Chetco River and tributaries to hold soil, reduce erosion, provide shade, and contribute macro-invertebrates to the salmon food web (10,000 trees planted so far).
- National Wilderness Act Anniversary celebration (1964-2014). Sponsored hike and presentation on Kalmiopsis Wilderness at SWOCC (fall, 2014).
- Letter of support and coordination for adding Chetco River to the State Scenic Waterways system.
- Coordination for two new conservation efforts in the Chetco: Wild and Scenic Rivers 501c3 and Native Fish Society satellite branch (Chetco). Alyssa Babin and Mark Sherwood.

- Supporting local South County Farmer's Markets and CSA's. (local food and nutrition)

Previous Project Highlights

- **Remove Jack's Creek dam**
- Keith Smith large wood project 10 whole trees with root wads + several hundred willows. Sept, 2013. River mile 15 (just ds of South Fork)
- 180 whole trees placed in Jack Creek, Hamilton Creek and Mill Creek
- Extensive riparian work above confluence of North Fork and Chetco main stem
- **3 projects bundled together in OWEB Monitoring --- Chetco Estuary sampling** for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, salinity, etc. - to assess and protect rearing habitats in the estuary. **Macroinvertebrate sampling** in 9 small streams in the Chetco area to assess the impacts of urbanization. **Spawning surveys** in Jack's Creek, Hamilton Creek, and Jordan Creek to supplement ODFW spawning surveys.
- **Bioswale designs**, drawings, and nursery contacts for Da-Tone Rock -- sediment capture. Completed.
- **Planting the Brookings Medical Center bioswale** (several hundred plants) to reduce urban run-off (done with volunteers - completed).
- **Joel Bravo off-stream watering** (Hamilton Creek + mainstem) to pull cattle away from creeks and provide alternative drinking sources. (No poop into the streams). Two undersized culverts replaced + 3 off-stream watering systems.
- **Cherish the Chetco** - Wild and Scenic River national "**Center for Excellence.**" Celebration day on the Chetco River -- September 22, 2012. Kids, speakers, evening readings, US FS support. Ann Vileisis.
- **New Zealand mudsnail sampling** partnership with US Forest Service thru RAC funding (Chetco plus 4 other south county rivers).
- Testifying at **gold mining hearing -- 30 miles of Chetco River** (USFS) November, 2011
- **Action to ban vehicles** from driving in the Chetco River. Research on legal procedures for rule-making. Coordination with Louise Solliday of DSL. Testifying at DSL hearing in Brookings. Serving on Advisory Committee, and advocating ban. Action approved -- spring 2013
- 11 continuous years of "Chetco-Check-Up" annual event involving dozens of volunteers who clean up the river and do water quality testing.
- Multiple years of Storm Chasers data from Chetco River and tributaries -- measurements include turbidity and *E.coli*.
- Comprehensive program to measure and assess the sources of beach bacteria -- Mill Beach; Harris Beach ---DEQ funding
- Comprehensive Chetco River Water Quality Management Plan submitted to DEQ.
- 10 watershed education "Salmon Stream" signs installed by the Council on Chetco River and tributaries.

Looking Ahead (Projects in Development)

- **Boat washing station** at the Port of Brookings. Install new boat-washing station with the Port of Brookings. Prevent Clorox, bleach, soaps, etc. from entering Chetco estuary plus hot water wash to prevent mudsnails from getting into the river. (Wash all boats before putting in.) Coordination with Oregon State Marine Board.
- Comprehensive water quality initiative with City of Brookings. Projects include bioswales and constructed wetlands in Azalea Park, impervious surface assessment and “street sweeper” efforts to remove pollutants (Fred Meyer, Bi-Mart, etc.); Tuttle Creek bioswale and planting (tributary to estuary); and Scoop the Poop education campaign to reduce *E. coli* in urban creeks (Harris Creek and Mill Creek).