



# ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

## RIVER MILE 5.6 RESTORATION PROJECT – CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIP ELK CREEK PROJECT

**Rogue River Watershed Council** led the 6+ year multi-agency partnership effort to restore and improve 1.03 miles of critical habitat at Elk Creek Project for federally-listed salmonids and improve water quality and habitat for the entire ecosystem. \$289,000 in funding and labor contributed.

**Partners included:** **Rogue River Watershed Council**, USACE, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Hancock Forest Management, Medford Water Commission, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

**Improved** 1.03 miles of critical salmonid habitat by:

- 1) Reactivating three side channels that were previously bermed/filled
- 2) Placing 206 pieces of large woody debris at 29 locations
- 3) Restoring the riparian forest by treating 30 acres of noxious weeds, replanting 19 acres with native vegetation
- 4) Constructing 8,000 feet of wildlife-friendly fence to prevent habitual livestock trespass and damage

**Community Impact:** Interpretive signage was created to convey the importance of this ecosystem restoration project. Use of non-marketable timber salvaged from the 2018 Miles Wildfire that impacted over 52,000 ac in the local community.



*Side channel excavation with large woody debris. Logs donated by BLM and Hancock Timber- salvage from 2018 Miles wildfire that burnt 200+ ac in Elk Creek.*



*Manual removal of dense stands of invasive blackberry in sensitive riparian areas- many areas so thick the ground was not visible. Thirty acres treated in all. →*

*← Large woody debris being placed in key locations in reactivated side channels.*





Additional pages of support material (including photographs or news articles)

Project Summary: <https://www.rogueriverwc.org/project-archive/elk-creek-river-mile-5-6/>

Restoration biologist, Lance Wyss talks about the purpose of large wood structures on the Elk Creek River Mile 5.6 Restoration Project: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpNdEFL\\_kA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpNdEFL_kA)



Rogue River Watershed Council Members





Aerial view of downstream portion of the project site



Large woody placement in side channels



Excavating the artificial berm at inlet of side channel





Large wood placement, finished product