Bateman Creek Culvert Replacement Project
April 2006 to October 2006
Improved Fish Passage

Project Background and Description

The project was proposed while the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) replaced a bridge at the mouth of Bateman Creek (a tributary of Gales Creek) that was blocking fish passage. This project removed the next fish passage blockage upstream of the new ODOT bridge.

Two 36-inch culverts (one rusted and one crushed) were replaced with a concrete slab bridge. The bridge accommodates the logging trucks (80,000 pounds on five axles) used for timber harvesting on the property.

The replacement of these two bridges give native winter steelhead trout and cutthroat trout access to additional spawning and rearing areas on Bateman Creek.

Project Funding and Support

Cash
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board OWEB Small Grant Number 13-06-009 $9,995
Landowner $539
In-kind
Landowners $7,122
Volunteer $8,755
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Landowners $2,031
Private

Culverts in stream before removal

Installing one section of concrete slab for bridge crossing

Vicinity Map: Project is on Bateman creek just upstream of its confluence with Gales Creek.
Implementation

A retired Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) chief civil engineer volunteered his time to design and oversee the project. ODFW personnel performed the fish salvage work prior to the project.

The property owners removed the two 36-inch culverts and constructed the concrete footings for the project. The property owners and a contracted crew installed the three 21’ by 4’ by 1’ concrete bridge slabs (12,000 pounds each).

The property owner performed the erosion control and post project seeding work. Western Red Cedar and Hemlock were planted in the riparian area.

Effectiveness

The results from the replacement of the culverts with a bridge include unblocked passage for native cutthroat trout and winter steelhead trout, better water quality and less sedimentation in the stream since the river won’t flood the road during high winter flows. Both the ODOT project and this project were completed within days of each other which maximized the time the fish had access to the upstream areas.

Economic Benefit

Contractors from the surrounding area were used for the project which contributed to the local economy.